Gringo tagged as mastermind of power grab attempt

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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SUN rises on the red armband of the PMA Marilag Class of '95.
ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

WHITE armband identifies a government soldier scanning Ayala Avenue. ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

CRISIS OVER

296 AFP soldiers return to barracks

By Gil Cabacungan Jr., Michael L. Ubac and Joselle R. Badilla

THEY bombarded their sons and husbands, and "mistahs" with text messages: Give up.

The mother of one of the leaders of the rebellious soldiers helped prevent a bloody end for their loved ones. She persuaded President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend the deadline for the surrender, paving the way for negotiations.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya said the breakthrough was reached when the core group started entertaining their classmates from PMA Class '95 and their relatives to a dialogue.

The visit by classmates in the academy, relatives and friends could have softened the rebels' stance, according to Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff.

At 9:51 last night, about 19 hours after the mutineers seized Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, the country's first luxury serviced apartments, the President announced the end of the most serious threat faced by her administration.

"The crisis in Makati is over," the President said at a briefing in Malacañang. "This has been a triumph of democracy. May God bless the Philippines."

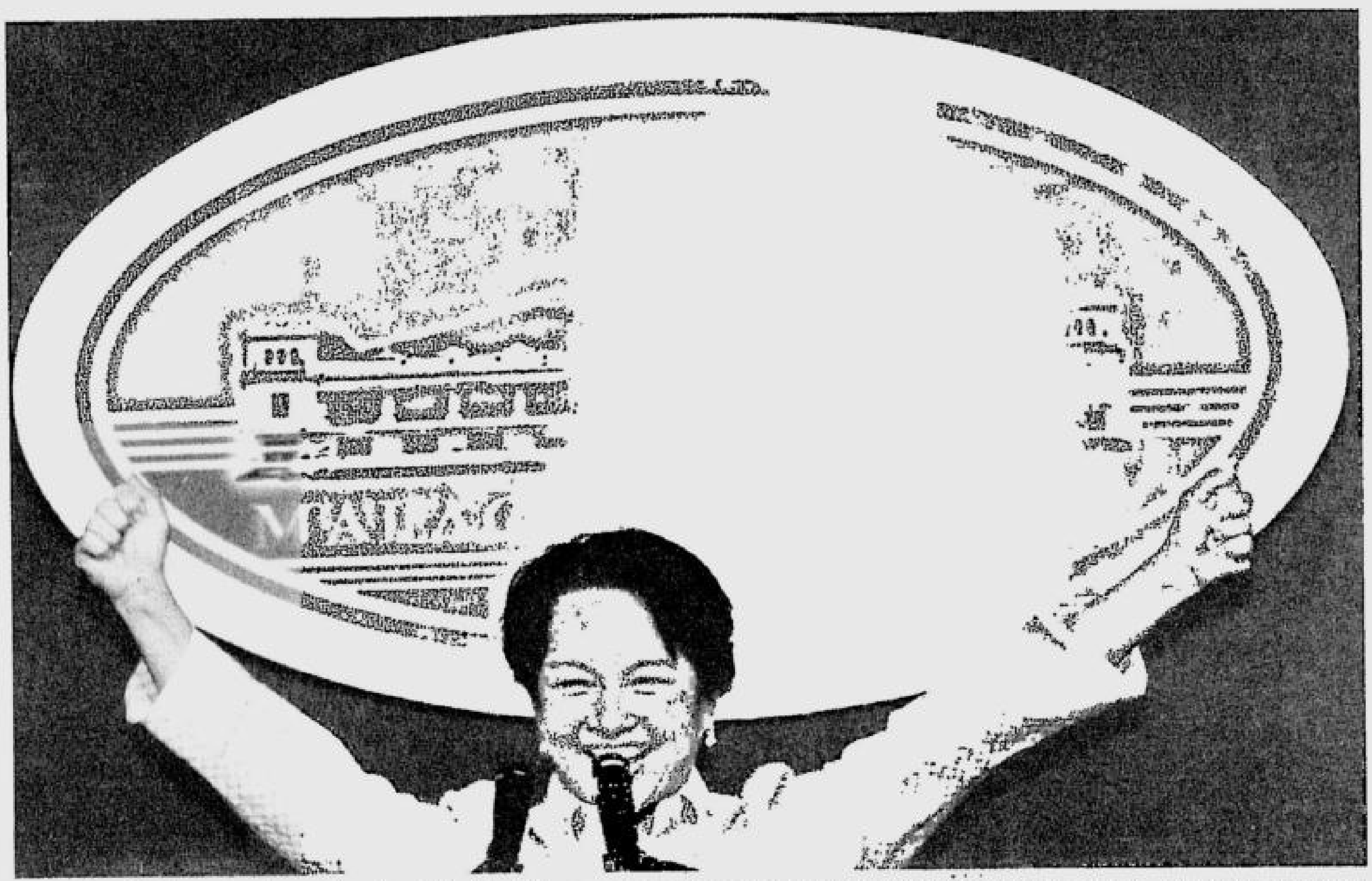
"Two hundred ninety-six soldiers, including 70 officers, are ... returning to barracks," a beaming Ms Macapagal said on national television. "They have not asked and they shall not be given special treatment."

The President said the soldiers would be investigated and their cases disposed of in line with the Articles of War.

"I assure the world that this event does not in anyway injure our national security and political stability. The issues involved are domestic, operational or administrative; they do not involve ideological or fundamental policy areas," Ms Macapagal said.

With the end of the mutiny, the

CRISIS/ A18



AT THE end of a long Sunday, a triumphant President Macapagal announces the rebellious soldiers are "standing down ... they have not asked and have not been given special treatment. May God bless the Philippines." *(More photos on Page A20.)*
EDWIN BACASMAS

Why they took over Oakwood

By Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

TO JUSTIFY their mutiny against the government, the group of rebel soldiers holed up in Makati City virtually accused the top leadership of the military and the Macapagal administration of treason.

The group of rebel soldiers who tagged themselves "Magdalo" after Emilio Aguinaldo's faction in the Katipunan, raised serious charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, and military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus.

Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV, one of the leaders of the group, accused the administration of selling ammunition to the country's different rebel groups, masterminding the Davao airport and wharf bombings, and planning to declare martial law next month.

Trillanes added that the controversial escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from Camp Crame validated their fears that the administration was determined to hold on to power.

Aside from the impromptu press briefing that Trillanes held outside the Oakwood Premier apartment complex in Makati—while his men laid bombs in the car park—the group also sent a videotape to TV sta-

WHY/ A19

Analysts say economy set back by $1^1/_2$ years

By PDI Business Staff

WHEN rebel soldiers took over the Makati financial district in a bloody coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino in 1989, they set back the economy by six years, according to analysts.

In a near exact replay 17 years later, disgruntled junior officers yesterday returned to Makati and wired an entire commercial block with explosives. Analysts are saying the latest military mutiny will set back the economy by one and a half years—at the very least.

"Even now, the business sector is in a state of shock," Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Sunday. "We must remember the 1989 coup brought down our economy to nearly zero growth ... It took us several years before our economy began to recover."

Makati Business Club executive director Guillerno Luz agreed with Roxas' assessment of the mutiny's damage to the economy, while Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda said the economy could suffer a drop of at least a percentage point in growth.

But Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said it was

ANALYSTS/ A21

TRILLANES IV: Among best and brightest in the military.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Trillanes: Brilliant, dangerous

By Christian V. Esguerra and Edson Tandoc Jr.

NAVY Lieutenant Antonio Trillanes IV, leader of the disgruntled junior officers, belongs to the elite of the elite.

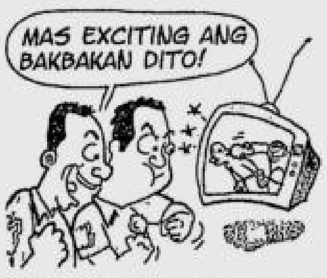
According to a police superintendent who knows him personally, the controversial officer has extensive training and experience in special operations and small-unit tactics.

"He's no ordinary soldier," the police official told the INQUIRER yesterday. "He's always at the frontline where the action is."

Such first-hand training makes Trillanes among the "most dangerous" of the young military officers who holed up at the Oakwood Premier in Makati City, the official claimed.

"Make no mistake about it—he and his men are ready to kill and are ready to die," the official said. But Trillanes, whose rank is equivalent to that of captain in the other armed services, said in a

TRILLANES/ A19



MAS EXCITING ANG BAKBAKAN DITO!

Boxing champ steals show for 3 rounds

EVER so briefly, International Boxing Federation's superbantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao stole the thunder from the young and good-looking Magdalo soldiers championing another cause in yesterday's

BOXING/ A19

PMA Marilag Class 'ever idealistic'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The key figures in Sunday's mutiny in Makati City belong to a Philippine Military Academy class that is popular for its members' "brilliance" and "righteousness," according to their former teachers, mistahs (classmates) and parents.

The PMA's Marilag Class of 1995 was the first trained under the academy's new tri-service program, making its members "the first genuine specialists in the military hierarchy," said one instructor. "They were also influential as senior cadets in framing the rules that guided the first batch of female cadets [back in 1993]."

PMA/ A19

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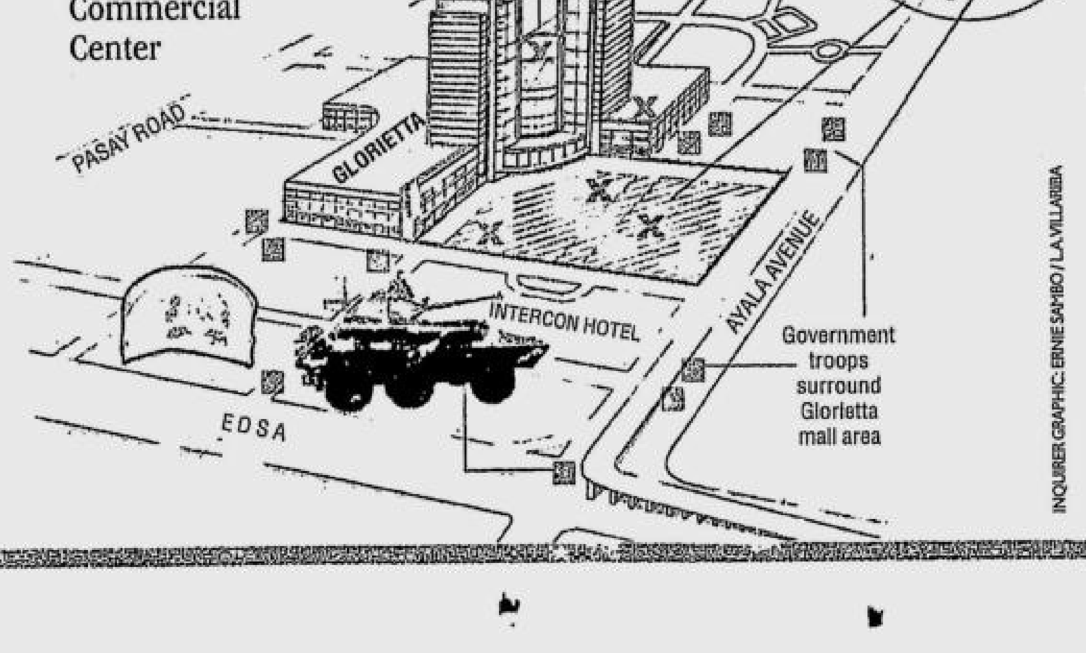
- **US backs Gloria**
  NEWS /A6

TIMELINE

By Juliet Javellana and Christian Esguerra

July 18: The INQUIRER breaks the news on griping junior officers, mostly from PMA Class '95. President Macapagal orders the AFP chief of staff to look into their complaints.
July 19: The INQUIRER reports that the junior officers had been seeking the advice of Sen. Gringo Honasan and that their "bible" was the senator's National Recovery Program platform.
July 23: The President hosts dinner for the junior officers and dismisses coup rumors.
July 25: The President tells civil society groups at Edsa Shrine that there would be a coup "this weekend."
July 26: ISAFP chief Brig.Gen. Victor Corpus briefs Cardinal Sin, civil society groups on coup scenarios. The civil society groups set up command center at the Edsa Shrine. The President calls an emergency meeting of the Cabinet and the AFP and PNP top brass.
At **8 p.m.**, she issues her first statement that a band of soldiers had abandon their posts. She orders hunt for 20 rogue junior officers, saying they would be court-mar-

TIMELINE/ A22



INQUIRER GRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO / LA VILLARIBA

Rebels highlight fragility of gov't

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE SEIZURE early Sunday morning of Oakwood Premier in the heart of Makati City by a group of mutinous soldiers was the opening salvo of a coup attempt aimed at toppling the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the tail end of her stay in office.

The occupation of the country's first luxury serviced apartments, where the rebels had held a number of guests, mainly foreigners who included Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce, for more than eight hours, prompted the President to declare a state of rebellion at 12:30 p.m. yesterday.

This was the second time the President declared a state of rebellion. The first was on May 1, 2001, when

REBELS/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/28/03 SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gringo was brains–Lina

By Nelson Forte Flores
and Michael Lim Ubac

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina yesterday accused opposition Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan of being the mastermind of the mutiny mounted by disgruntled junior military officers against the administration.

Lina said the government had evidence and would soon file criminal charges against Honasan. He said other well-known personalities who supported the attempted coup were also being watched. He did not name the personalities, however.

Lina said the charges leveled by the rebellious officers, who comprise Philippine Military Academy Classes '94 and '95, against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other government officials were "incredible and ridiculous." He said the demands of the rebel soldiers were either vague or impossible to achieve.

The officers had asked for the resignations of Ms. Macapagal, Reyes, Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane and other officials for alleged corruption and mismanagement of the country. They complained of low pay and corruption high up in the ranks.

But Lina said "the rebels betrayed their true intention" when they failed to answer reporters' queries as to who they had in mind to replace President Macapagal. He said the rebels' reply that "the question was irrelevant" showed their action was "nothing but a power grab."

Earlier, a rebel spokesperson had said they "were not launching a coup" but simply wanted to be heard, especially on the National Recovery Program (NRP) authored by Honasan. *(See related story on this page.)*

Lina said that if the officers had only wanted to be heard, they could have aired their gripes through the media.

"Why didn't they take their problems to the media and name names instead of choosing to commit acts of terror. Their sincerity is highly questionable," Lina said.

Honasan, when he finally surfaced at 5 p.m. yesterday, disassociated himself from the coup plot, saying the mutiny was an "independent" action by the junior officers.

Honasan told reporters at the Oakwood hotel where the mutineers had decided to make their stand that the latter's support for his NRP did not mean he was the brains behind the power grab.

Not subversive

"There's nothing subversive about the NRP. There is no basis to allegations that I am involved in this (rebellion). This is an independent action. We have no influence over the situation here. I hope this will be resolved peacefully," he said.

Honasan said he could not be behind the mutiny because "at present I am involved in peace unification and reconciliation in the Senate."

When asked to categorically deny the accusation, he said: "I will rise to that challenge. I will be an active participant in resolving the issues, but not to the point of disregarding due process. I must not do it under a condition of duress."

Honasan lashed out at government officials, particularly Lina, for dragging his name into the crisis because of the NRP.

"Everybody can say the NRP is the (mutineers') bible, but it is my (platform)," he said.

Honasan said the government response to the rebels' gripes should be to address a deeper societal malaise.

"I hope that everyone will help and our common ground should be a national recovery program," he said.

Honasan entered the Oakwood with Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and housing czar Mike Defensor to meet with the leaders of the young officers and negotiate a peaceful end to the standoff. They were still locked in discussion at press time.

Honasan had a parting shot for Lina, however, advising the secretary to be "prudent and cautious" in his statements.

"He (Lina) should be part of the solution, not the problem," Honasan said.

A former associate of Honasan's, however, said he believed a "political hand" was behind the young officers' mutiny.

Ex-Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), said "political personalities" had tried to "manipulate" the renegade officers, adding that he was referring to Honasan.

Honasan and Maligalig were key leaders of the bloody coup attempts against the administration of President Corazon Aquino in the '80s. They had formed the old RAM, the Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

Coordination conference

Maligalig said Honasan had called leaders of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) to a "coordination conference" at his office last Friday.

The Guardians is a loose grouping of active and retired military and police personnel.

Quoting those present at the meeting, Maligalig said Honasan had told the group to mobilize for a rally on Saturday and Sunday ahead of the President's State of the Nation Address on Monday.

As it turned out, the junior officers mounted their mutiny early on Sunday morning.

The former coup plotter said the young officers "were fooled. They were led astray. They shouldn't let themselves be used by political demagogues." *With Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Z. Pazzibugan, in Manila; and Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Honasan's NRP: Bible of mutineers

WHAT is the National Recovery Program, "bible" of the young military officers who took a Makati building under siege yesterday and withdrew support from the Macapagal administration?

It is a program of government that opposition Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan is offering the people and the united opposition in his announced bid for the presidency. It addresses five major problems plaguing the country: peace and order, the economy, poverty, corruption and population. The rebels consider it the road map to progress.

The program is contained in a 16-page pamphlet that wears the colors of the Philippine flag on its cover. But the red field eclipses the sun and significantly covers the blue field. Applying historical symbolism, it could be construed as a call to bloody war.

Of the five areas tackled, peace and order takes up the biggest portion since, in Honasan's view, problems in this area are the main obstacles to national development. This part has reportedly been written with the help of some young military officers.

Included in this portion is the reformation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police—institutions that, Honasan writes, "have been badly damaged and plundered by its treacherously corrupt and power-driven senior officers."

"While there may still be a few morally upright generals left in the AFP/PNP," he maintains, "they have become so insignificant and impotent that they never made any difference."

The program proposes a three-year term for the Armed Forces chief of staff, and the retirement of "all officers of the rank of brigadier general/commodore/chief superintendent and up."

Also among the NRP's major calls is for the PNP, formerly the Philippine Constabulary, to be "reabsorbed" by the AFP. Honasan says the PNP's civilian character has worked "disastrously" against national security and public safety.

Under the program, "Camp Crame would be dissolved and sold. The PNP headquarters would be relocated to Camp Aguinaldo." After which, NRP requires an inventory of the military arsenal to "stop the continued pilferage of arms and ammo, which are sold to the enemies of the State for use in criminal operations."

Honasan also proposes a standardized salary for AFP men and increased subsistence pay for soldiers. *Ma Ceres P. Doyo, Christine O. Avendaño, and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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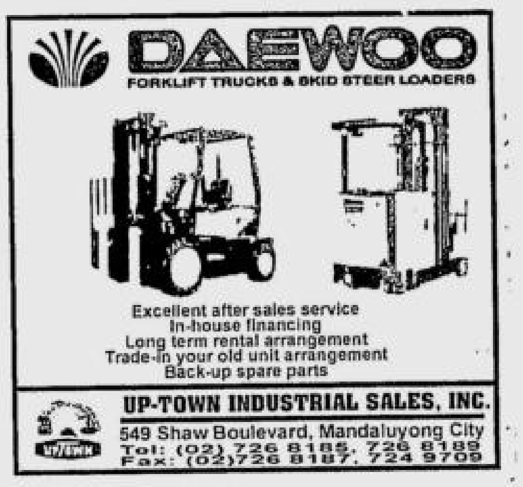

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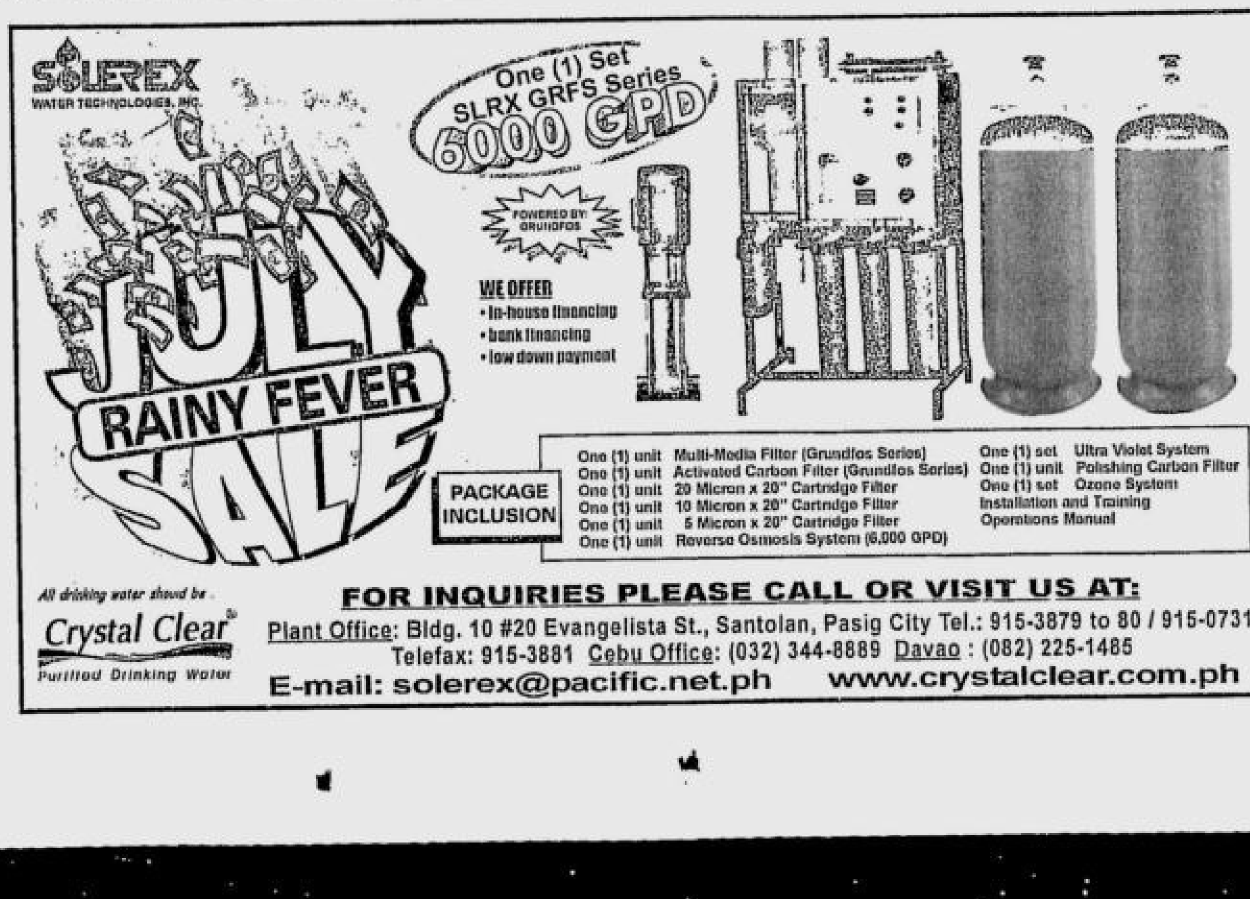

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Despite 'coup' try, State of the Nation Address will go on

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will be able to deliver her State of the Nation Address (Sona) today as Congress will reopen as scheduled, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

"The incident in Makati is not enough reason to cancel the Sona," said Drilon in a statement.

Drilon said he and Speaker Jose de Venecia agreed the President's address should push through despite yesterday's siege at the Oakwood hotel in Makati City by a group of disgruntled young military officers and soldiers.

In the statement, Drilon said the Senate would pass a resolution today "expressing its support for President Macapagal and the democratic government for which she stands."

He said that while the mutinous group may have legitimate grievances against the government, "the Senate will not support any illegal means resorted to by these rebels to address their grievances."

De Venecia said today's Sona will go on.

"It's all systems go," he said. "Everything is ready for the President's Sona."

The only hitch was the young officers' mutiny prevented Ms Macapagal from going ahead with a scheduled dress rehearsal for her Sona at the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City.

,House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno and his deputy, Artemio Adasa, reported to De Venecia late Saturday afternoon that all security preparations for Ms Macapagal's address to Congress were in place.

"We will receive the President's report as scheduled," De Venecia said.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) said that even if the military mutiny in Makati is not put down, Congress would convene its joint session today to receive the President's Sona.

"The President's delivery of the Sona before the joint session of Congress is a constitutional duty," Gonzales said.

Security at the House was tightened over the weekend following the discovery of the supposed coup plot.

All House security personnel were ordered to report to their posts on Saturday, the first time they were directed to do so before a Sona.

Yesterday, razor wire was rolled out around the main entrance of the House, with members of the elite Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police opening only one lane for vehicular traffic to pass through.

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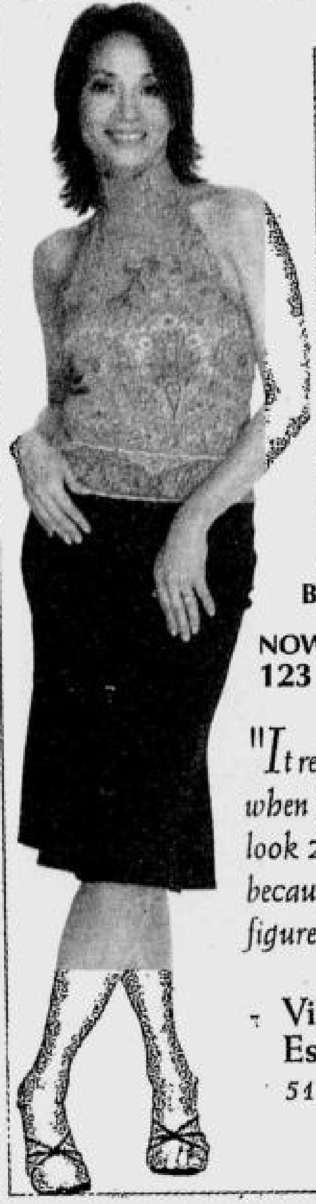

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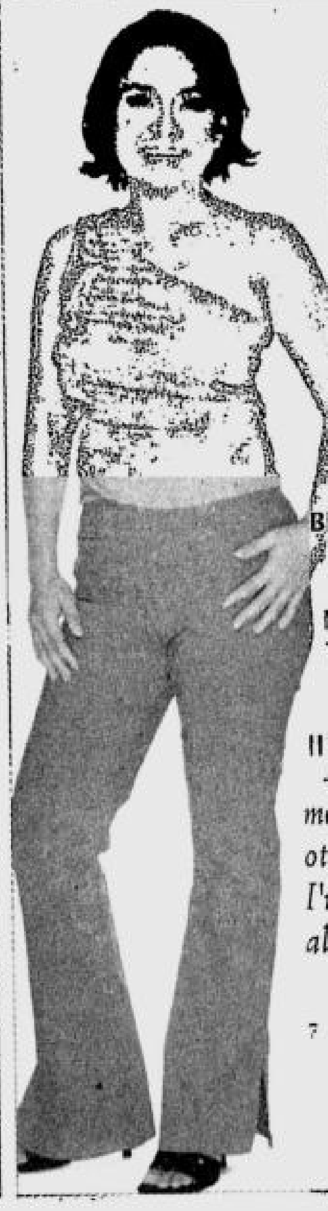

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In time of crisis, local officials rally round the President

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

WHEN push came to shove, local officials rallied behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's firm stand against the members of Philippine Military Academy Magdalo Class who rose in mutiny against the government.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who quit his Cabinet post as foreign secretary last year due to policy differences with President Macapagal, described the concerns of the young soldiers as "legitimate" but called for the standoff to end without bloodshed.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin labeled the rebel soldiers "enemies of our peace (who) are sowing lies and using terroristic means to take power."

His spokesperson Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas, however, said the use of force against the coup plotters would be justified after the government deadline, under the circumstances.

Former President Corazon Aquino, who faced seven coup attempts during her term, said she viewed the current crisis "with extreme sadness" and called on the faithful to "pray for President Macapagal as she leads us through this present crisis."

"I want to assure her (Macapagal) that I will do everything I can to support her," said Aquino.

Leaders of the House condemned the mutiny and expressed support for the President's declaration of a state of rebellion.

"We are solidly behind the President in her decision and we will continue to support her," said Speaker Jose de Venecia. "The fact is rebellion does exist and it is continuing."

Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), chair of the House committee on national defense, said punitive action must be meted out against the mutinous officers who "should not [be allowed] to hold the entire country hostage." *With AFP, AP reports*

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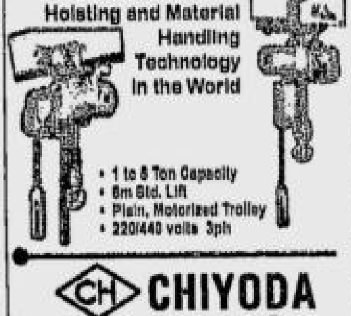

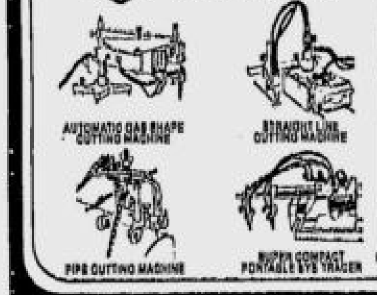
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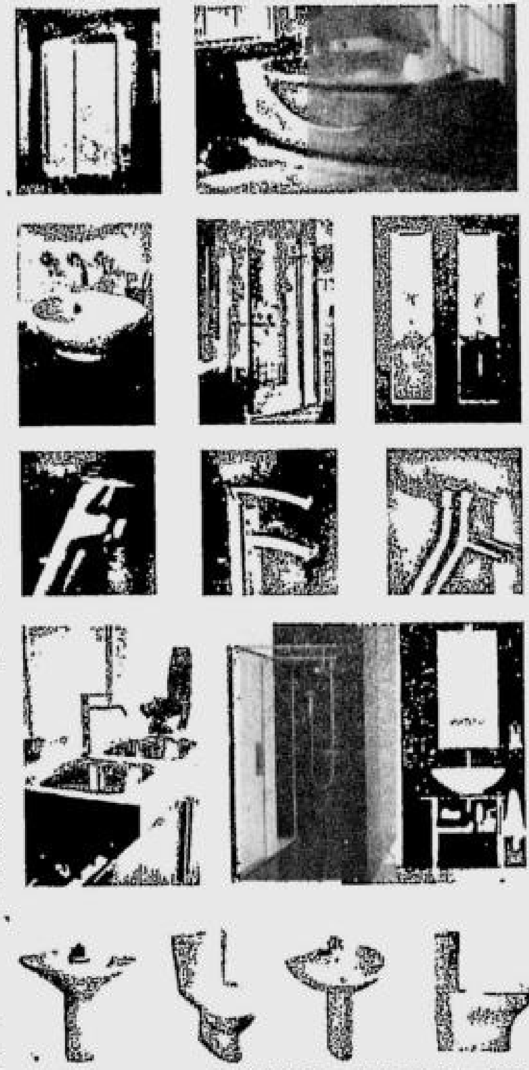

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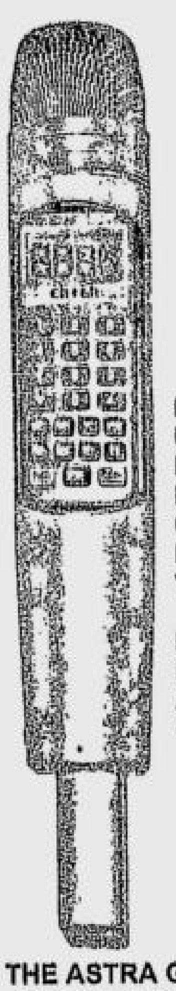

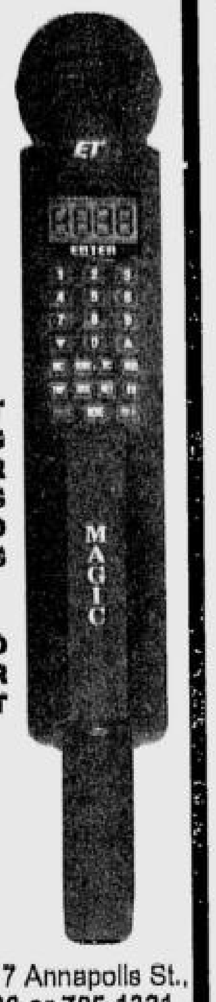

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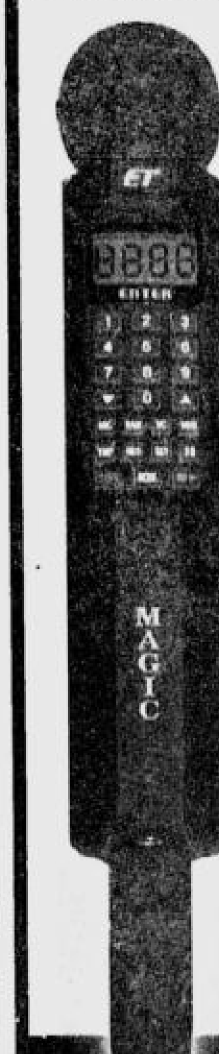

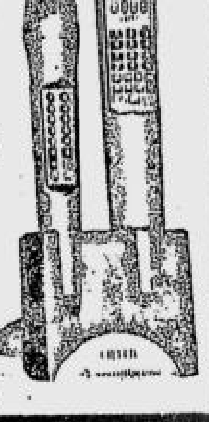

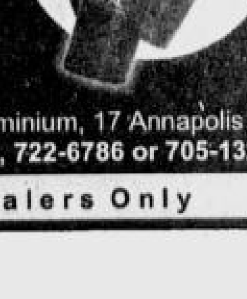

Youngest mutineer convinces folks cause was just

FIRST Lt. Florentino Somera Jr., the youngest of the renegade military officers who took over the Oakwood complex in Makati City yesterday, called his father, retired Army man Florencio Sr., and his family at their Baguio City home on Saturday to assure them his cause was righteous.

Somera Jr., 21, belongs to PMA Masikhay Class '99. Florencio Sr. said he trusted his son's judgment because "he was always a very religious young man."

"He was always faithful to God so whatever he does today [Sunday], I know it is what he feels is right," Somera Sr. said in Filipino. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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US, other nations back GMA

THE UNITED States, Australia, Singapore and Indonesia yesterday threw their support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo as she faced down rebel military officers demanding her resignation.

"No one could be under any doubt that we fully support the legitimate, civilian government of President Macapagal-Arroyo," US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone said.

"As President (George W.) Bush stated during the May 19th state visit of President (Macapagal), the relationship between the Philippines and the United States is stronger today than at any time in our recent history."

Ricciardone also played down the takeover of the Glorietta shopping complex in Makati. "At this time we have no reason to belive that there is a real threat to the government," Ricciardone said.

But US state department spokesperson Joanne Moore said in Washington that a military coup "would have immediate negative consequences, including consequences on the bilateral relationship."

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who was in Singapore for a bilateral visit when rebel soldiers seized a Makati apartment hotel where Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce was temporarily staying, denounced what he called a coup attempt by "dissident rebel army officers."

The ambassador and other foreigners emerged unharmed early Sunday from the Oakwood Tower apartments, part of the commercial center occupied and ringed with bombs by rebel soldiers in anticipation of a government counterattack.

Argentine Ambassador Mario Schuff was also one of the 300 people, many of them foreigners, who were allowed by the rebel soldiers to leave the Oakwood Suites.

"This comes at a very difficult time when the Philippines is in the forefront of the war against terrorism," Downer told journalists in Singapore, citing Australia's strong support for Manila in the campaign against Southeast Asian extremist Islamic groups.

"The last thing any of us wants at this time is this kind of instability. We hope that this confrontation in Manila will be resolved in favor of the democratically elected government of the president of the Philippines," he said, warning that a successful coup would have a "very serious impact" on bilateral relations.

Singapore, one of the Philippines' closest partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, also backed Ms Macapagal.

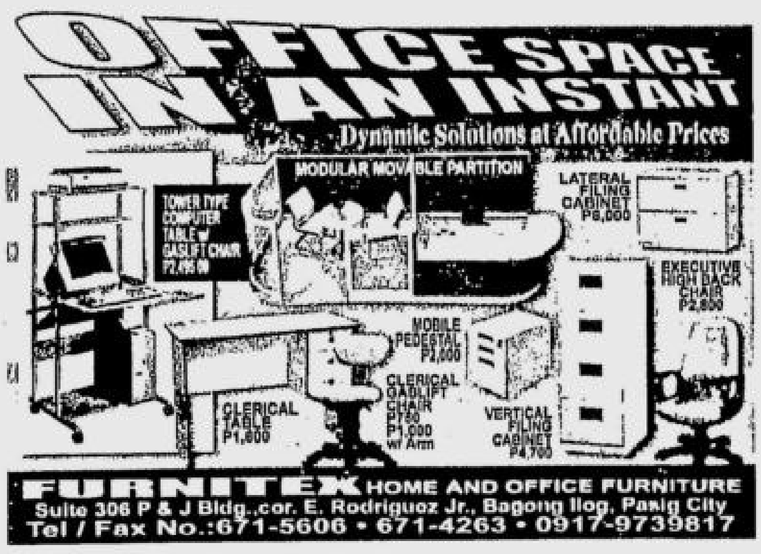
"We are concerned about the developments in Manila and we are monitoring the situation," a ministry spokesperson said in response to media queries. "The resort to unconstitutional means by the rebels is unacceptable. We have full confidence in President Arroyo in restoring order."

Malaysian Ambassador to Manila Taufik Mohamed Noor said he was "shocked" by the developments. "This is not good for the Philippines," he said.

Indonesia also expressed support for Ms Macapagal. "As a fellow democratic nation Indonesia unreservedly rejects any attempt at the overthrow of a democratic government, in this case the government of the Philippines. Any attempt at the overthrow of a legitimate government is certainly alien to Southeast Asia, which is fast moving toward greater democracy," foreign ministry spokesperson Marty Natalegawa said.

Various foreign embassies in Manila, however, warned its nationals to keep out of the Makati area.

Reports by Leila B. Salaverria, Gerald Lacuarta, AFP and AP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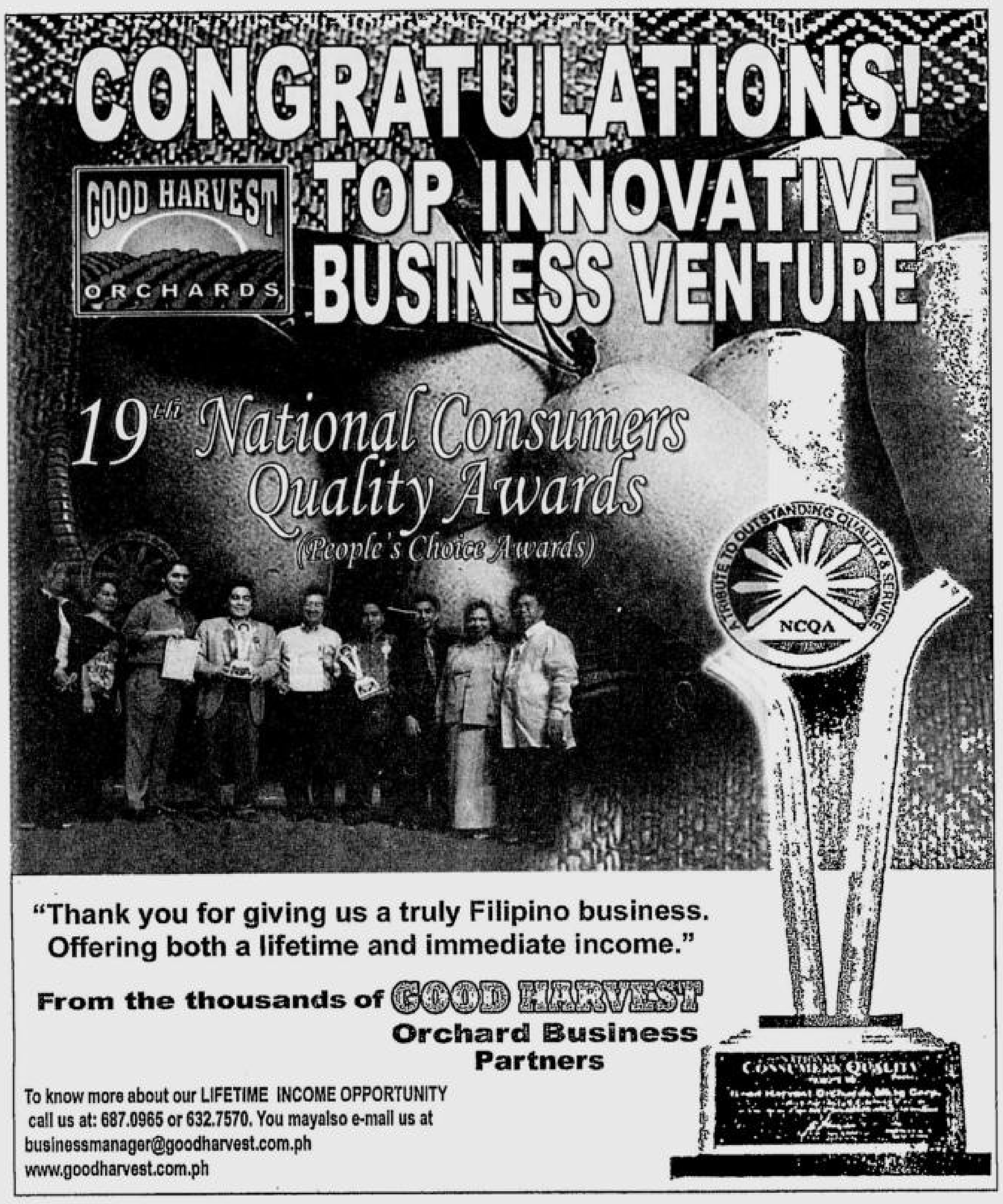
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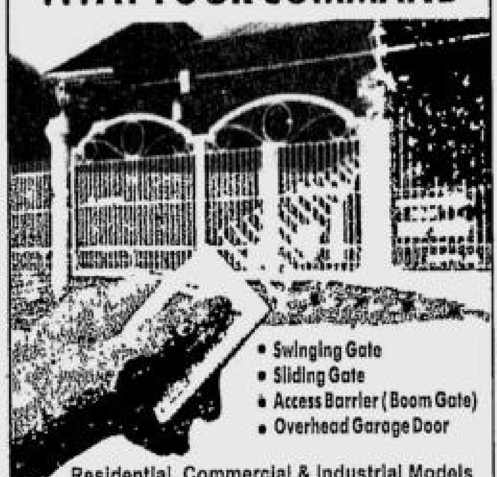
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NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO SHAREHOLDERS OF UNITED PULP AND PAPER CO., INC.

To All Shareholders of United Pulp and Paper Co., Inc. ("UPPC"):

Please be informed that, on 28 July 2003, The Siam Pulp and Paper Public Company Limited ("SPPC"), a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Thailand, filed the Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with its intention to acquire 25,900,114 common shares equivalent to approximately 18.4% of the total outstanding capital stock of UPPC at P= 5.00 per share. As of 18 July 2003, the total outstanding capital stock of UPPC consists of 140,570,863 common shares (the "Shares").

Stockholders as at 25 July 2003 (the "Record Date") may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by SPPC, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of 28 July 2003 until 3:00 p.m. of 26 August 2003 (the "Tender Offer Period").

Tendering stockholders should secure validation of their stock certificates by UPPC's Corporate Secretary, Atty. Juan J. Diaz at 11th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City. Thereafter, the stockholders should accomplish and submit the Application to Tender Shares in duplicate, together with other requirements set forth therein, and tender their corresponding stock certificates to Stock Transfer Service, Inc. (the "Depository") at 8th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City, with telephone numbers 632-8987555 and 632-8987590.

Tendering stockholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered Share(s) at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository before 3:00 p.m. of 26 August 2003.

The Tender Offer is further subject to the terms and conditions described in the Terms of the Tender Offer. Copies of SEC Form 19-1, the Terms of the Tender Offer and the Application to Tender Shares, may be obtained by the stockholders of UPPC, free of charge, from the following:

Stock Transfer Service, Inc.
8th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive
Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City
Telephone Numbers: 632-8987555/ 632-8987590
Contact Person: Antonio M. Laviña

SPPC confirms that sufficient resources are available to satisfy full acceptance of the offer to tender the Shares.

This Notice is published in compliance with Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. [Copies of this Notice, along with the Application to Tender Shares and the attachments, shall be sent to the stockholders by personal delivery or registered mail.

NOTE: YOU MAY CONSULT YOUR LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL ADVISER OR DIRECT YOUR INQUIRIES OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITORY.

Mr. Somboon Chuchawal
President
The Siam Pulp and Paper Public Company Limited

Immigration chief gets jail term for ordering German's ouster

OLONGAPO CITY—A regional trial court judge has slapped Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo with a six-month jail term for ordering the summary deportation of a German retiree in spite of an injunction issued by the court.

Judge Ramon Caguioa of RTC Branch 74 also fined Domingo P30,000 for indirect contempt. He ordered her to free Wolfgang Harlinghausen from the Bureau of Immigration's detention center, and pay all his losses for the duration of his confinement.

A statement sent to the INQUIRER said Caguioa issued the two-page order on Friday after Harlinghausen, 60, filed a motion on June 25 citing Domingo for contempt for issuing the summary deportation order on March 5 this year.

Harlinghausen was arrested by BI agents on Oct. 14, 2002. He was said to have fled to the Philippines to avoid serving a prison sentence in Germany, where he had been convicted for fraud.

At the time, Domingo ordered an immediate investigation into how Harlinghausen was able to reenter the country despite being blacklisted by the bureau less than a month earlier, on Sept. 24.

The INQUIRER failed to reach Domingo for comment on Saturday. One of her aides said the commissioner had received a copy of Caguioa's July 25 order, but had not read it.

Domingo's technical staff was preparing a comment, the aide added.

The court previously ordered Domingo to explain why she should not be cited for contempt. Domingo filed her compliance on July 1, saying Caguioa failed to follow procedures and had no jurisdiction over the case.

Caguioa said Domingo knew that the court had issued a writ of preliminary injunction on Feb. 14 this year, preventing her from implementing her deportation orders against Harlinghausen dated Oct. 21 and Nov. 25 last year. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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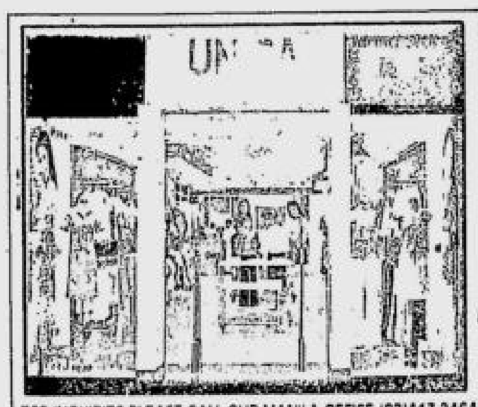

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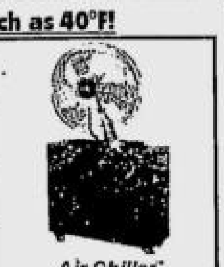

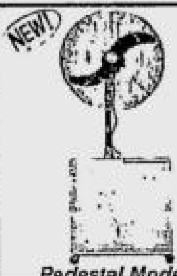

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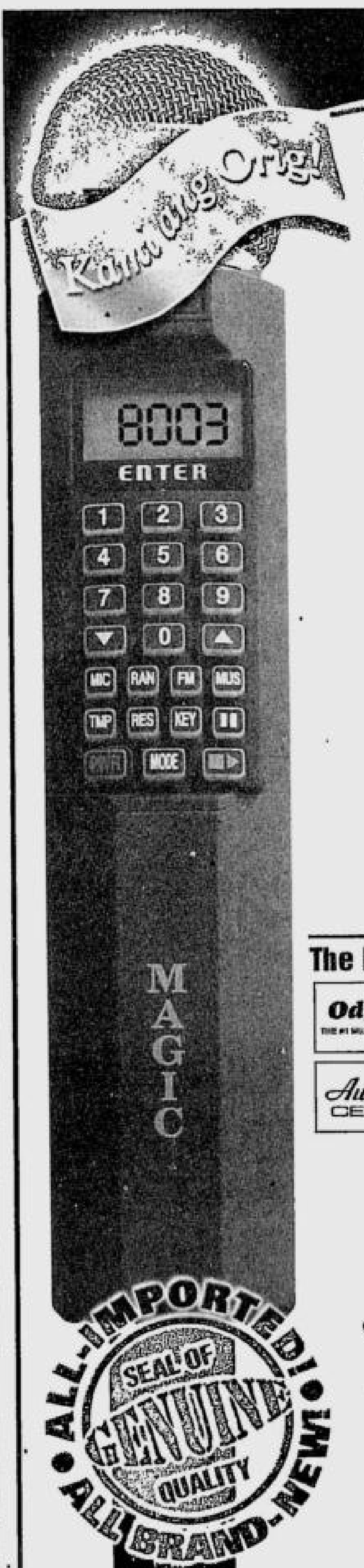

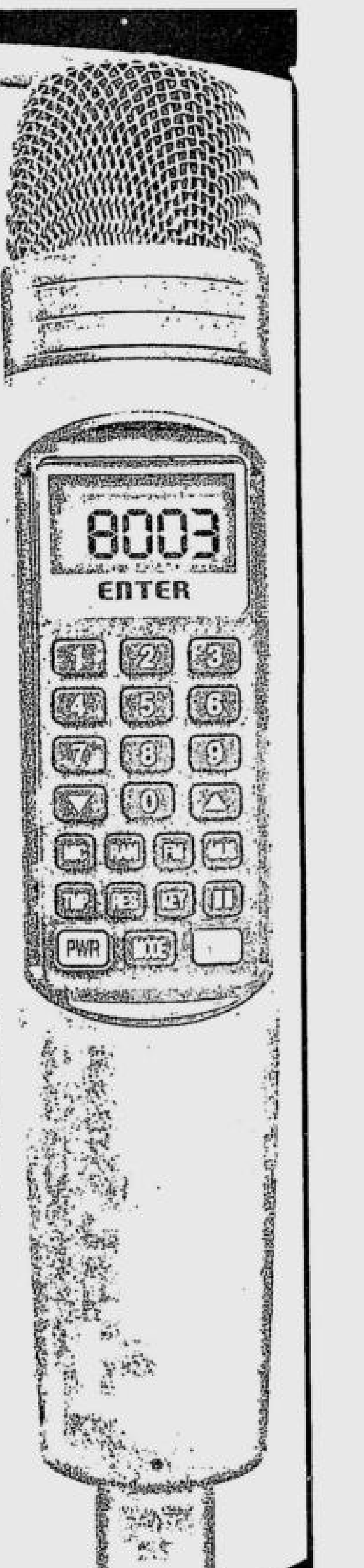

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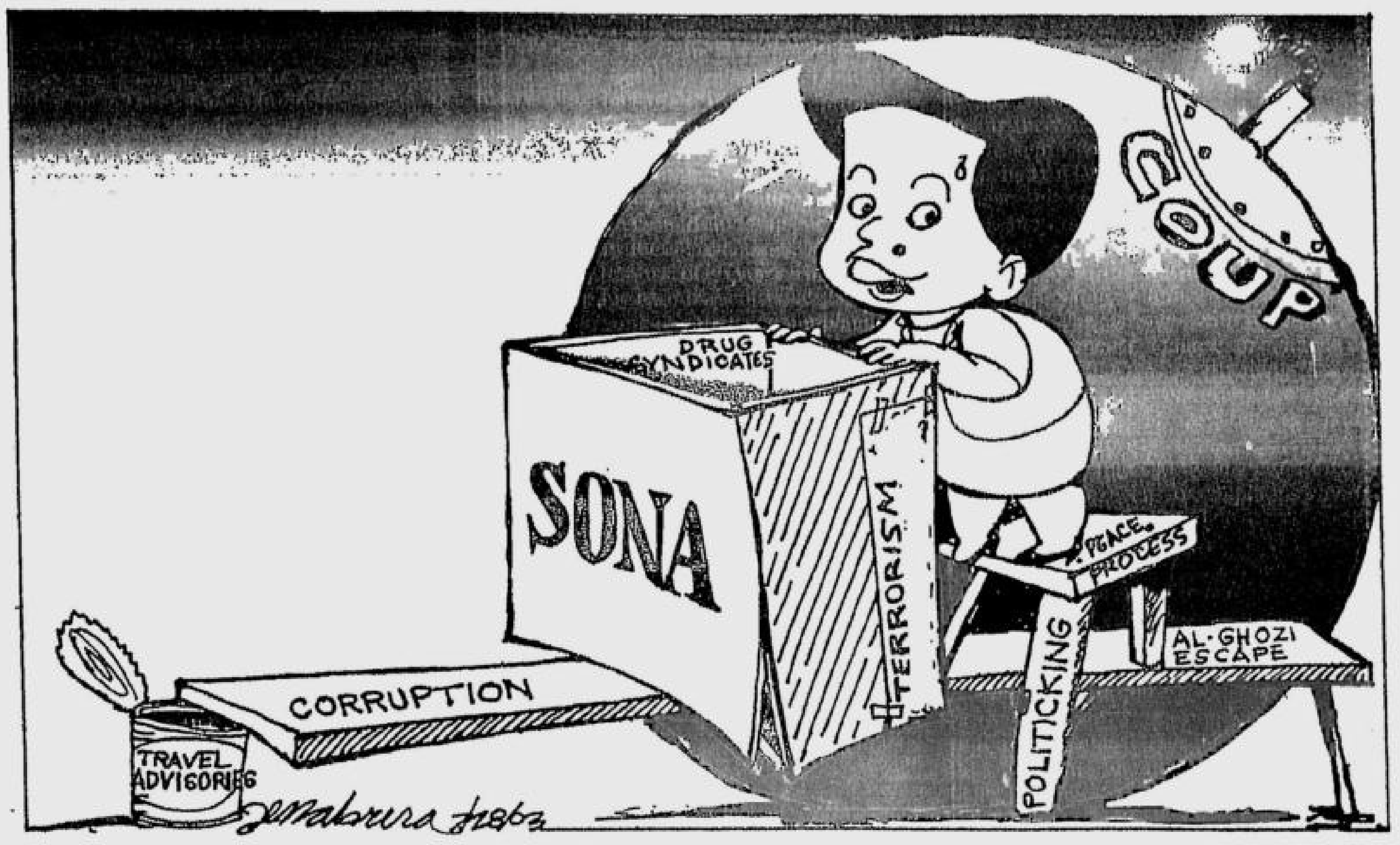


EDITORIALS

Mutineers

SOME of the grievances the military mutineers have raised are legitimate, but the method they have chosen to dramatize their concerns is illegal, immoral, inept—and ultimately un-Filipino. We denounce the mutiny in the strongest possible terms.

Taking over parts of the Glorietta commercial complex in Makati City, the country's central business district, may have been a defensive maneuver yesterday on the part of the disgruntled junior officers, whom the President ordered arrested on Saturday night. But their action has harmed both their cause of action, and the country at large.

As of noon yesterday, the world's news channels and news websites were full of images of heavily armed soldiers keeping watch over booby-trapped buildings, beside stories with such headlines as "Armed men seize Manila mall." The damage to the country's image will be weighed in the next few days, but we can be sure that the impact will illustrate the truth of a new axiom: The road to public relations hell is paved with disgruntled officers' good intentions.

The mutineers' cause has also sustained a mortal blow. Raising serious issues—including systemic military corruption, connivance with the enemies of the state, state-sponsored terrorism, and an alleged Macapagal administration plan to declare martial law in August—the mutineers have failed to present evidence aside from the testimony of their personal experience. By staging a mutiny and taking over a commercial center, however, the officers have knocked these issues off the pedestal they had themselves jerrybuilt. Now the issue facing both the administration and the nation is more stark: if military officers commit a crime, shouldn't they be punished to the fullest extent of the law?

The public has lost patience with, and the government has learned the ineffectiveness of, the 100-pushups brand of punishment. While the Macapagal administration must look into the officers' grievances, the chain of command must subject the mutineers to the maximum penalty under the law.

Masterminds

BOTH Malacañang and Camp Aguinaldo have sounded the alarm over the involvement of certain politicians, with Interior Secretary Joey Lina even naming ex-coup leader and now opposition senator Gringo Honasan. Even Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff and military spokesperson, described the group of rogue junior officers as "Honasan's faction." But senators have crossed party lines to defend Honasan, or at least give the man who led the two most destructive coup attempts in the 1980s the benefit of the doubt.

Until Lina produces the evidence he says links Honasan to the mutiny, we are left to note resemblances between the military adventures he staged and yesterday's mutiny.

To be sure, from one point of view, Honasan's fingerprints seem to be all over the place. The coup attempts of February 1986, August 1987 and December 1989 were fatally flawed in both concept and execution. The coup leaders had an insufficient idea of the vital strategic centers that must be controlled, and they failed to muster enough disciplined soldiers to carry out their already limited plans. Above all, their plans did not factor in the need for people's support.

Yesterday's mutiny—perhaps as in February 1986 an aborted coup—was marked by the same defects. The failure to take public support into consideration was especially telling. Instead of drawing public sympathy, the mutineers' defensive maneuver—taking over the Glorietta mall and the Oakwood hotel—was guaranteed to put their motives in the worst possible light.

The idea that the mutiny was merely a "peaceful" attempt to raise the officers' grievances, as mutiny leader Lieutenant Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes insisted several times to reporters, was so diametrically opposite the reality that the public could see for themselves on TV that it completely undermined the mutineers' credibility. But then, credibility is something to worry about only when you care about what the public thinks.

More realistic Sona at Manila Hotel Kapihan today

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY, President Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver her State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress at the Batasan. Officialdom as well as selected VIPs will be there and the public will watch and listen on television and radio. Alas, what they will hear will most likely be exaggerations, misrepresentations, and even outright lies.

For throughout Philippine history, no president has ever given an honest-to-goodness report on the state of the nation. Achievements are always exaggerated and problems and failures minimized. Presidents cite plenty of statistics to support their claims, but as the saying goes, even the Devil can cite the Scriptures.

The real state of the nation address (Sona) will be reported at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) starting at 9 o'clock this morning. The true situation in the country is always reported by the opposition because it has no reason to embellish facts and figures to make the picture more glowing than it really is. On the other hand, it cannot hide real achievements because the people themselves will know it is lying.

And so we have invited two outstanding opposition leaders, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and former Sen. Francisco Tatad, to make the Sona at today's Kapihan. What you will hear at the Batasan later today will be the contra-Sona. It is better to hear both sides so that we will not be fooled by the glib of tongue.

After all, you are the best judge of the situation. Just ask yourself: Am I better off today than I was last year?

* * *

The reason President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to keep the people guessing on her plans for the 2004 election is that she does not want to be a lame-duck President. Bureaucrats will refuse to obey her orders knowing that she has only a few months of her term left. What's more, like rats deserting a sinking ship, her subordinates will begin shifting loyalties to other politicians whom they think have better chances of becoming the next president so that they will again share in the spoils. So, even if GMA does not really want to run for reelection, she doesn't want to be definite about it because there is nobody more pitiful than a lame-duck President.

Even so, the officials of the notorious Public Estates Authority are already treating her like a lame duck. For the last eight months, the PEA continues to defy the President's order to fire five of its officers involved in the overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in the reclamation area. The five are still working and receiving their salaries in spite of repeated instructions from Malacañang.

PEA General Manager Teodorico Taguinod refuses to fire them saying they are career officers with security of tenure and cannot be dismissed without due process. Instead he reassigned them to his office.

But the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission which investigated the overpricing has already recommended their dismissal. Charges have also been filed with the Ombudsman.

Taguinod also defies the presidential order to dissolve the PEA, suspend all projects and distribute its assets to other government agencies. Seems like they're bent on getting as much as they can for as long as they can from the PEA.

Why doesn't the President just fire Taguinod himself for insubordination?

* * *

Another government official who is defying the President's order is General Manager Winston Garcia of the Government Service and Insurance System. Last May 15, 2003, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo sent to Garcia a letter from President Macapagal herself asking that Benigno Zialcita III be elected president of the GSIS Family Bank.

The presidential letter addressed to Garcia said:

"It is my desire that Benigno Zialcita III be elected member, board of director, and president, GSIS Family Bank, vice Marcos F. Catalan." Catalan is formerly a member of Garcia's staff.

Until now, more than two months later, this presidential order remains unimplemented.

* * *

By the way, Garcia's PRO, Mer Nilo P. Racimo, sent another letter to answer additional questions asked here early this month regarding the loss of P600,000 from the GSIS Family Bank branch in Imus, Cavite. Racimo had said in an earlier letter that two of the bank's officers have been suspended and administratively and criminally charged. I asked whether they have returned to work and are receiving their salaries.

Sure enough, Racimo confirmed that they're back. "The maximum period for their suspension had already been served. Pending the final resolution of the case under the Labor Code, the employees are allowed to be reinstated to their former positions," he said.

Question: How long will the administrative case take?

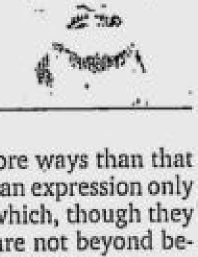
"We are also awaiting the official report of the Imus police on the criminal case against them," Racimo also said.

Question: How long does it take to get the report from the police?

I also asked if the P600,000 had been recovered. No answer to that. Another question: Did the GSIS pay the insurance for the lost P600,000?

State of the nation

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I DID not go to Edsa last Saturday night.

That isn't because I support the coup. That isn't even because I thought Jaime Cardinal Sin wanted to regain lost political clout, or luster, although I did think of that. That is simply because I did not buy his call. That was for everyone to "be ready to move to whatever action may be called for and necessary to guard our President and the legitimate government and to keep our nation in the way of peace."

What I am ready to do is move to whatever action may be called for or is necessary to guard the presidency and the legitimate government and to keep our nation in the way of peace. The difference is more than semantics. I will move to defend the office occupied by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the government she represents, one that came from the loins of Edsa II. But I will not be conscripted into supporting her personally, or endorsing her "strong republic," which is a betrayal of Edsa II. That has plunged this country into the way of war and not of peace, which has spawned the coup to begin with.

Cardinal Sin will certainly never recover his credibility to speak for general principles after he publicly—whether in jest or in utter seriousness doesn't matter—asked GMA to run again. That is the price he has to pay for it.

Like most other Filipinos, I will not welcome a military coup for whatever reason and will bestir myself to help stop it if I can and help resist it if I cannot. That cure is always worse than the disease. Edsa II, despite the huge public support for it, and despite the deep and protracted psychological preparation for it, sparked a huge constitutional controversy afterward, and does so to this day. An enterprise that has neither is doomed to fail, politically and morally, even if it succeeds militarily.

That is quite apart from the rule that will flow from it. The one that came from Edsa was a democratic one, in more ways than that it went through the constitutional process. It went through an expression of sovereign will—as pure and direct as you can get. What will follow from this coup, or any coup, will be an undemocratic one, in more ways than that it has no legal mooring. It is an expression only of the grievances of a few, which, though they have universal resonance, are not beyond being ventilated and resolved in other ways.

The simplest way is not to vote for GMA next year. Oh, yes, she will run, there is no doubt about that. Unless this coup dissuades her. If it does, it will have done something useful after all.

But I repeat yet again. None of this is an endorsement of GMA or her policies. None of us likes a coup, but few of us like her "strong republic" either.

Having said this, I must say as well that I completely sympathize with the rebels' grievances. Forget all that "national recovery" business, which Gringo Honasan has been free to perorate on these past hours. It's grating, and not only because of his voice. He's just covering up for his monumental failing as a lawmaker. His claim to fighting corruption and injustice ended when he threw his support behind Erap in the impeachment trial, which was as staunch a defense of rottenness and iniquity as they come. Wasn't he the fellow the guests of a hotel booed at the lobby at the height of Edsa II when he had the cheek to show himself and express solidarity with the protesters?

But the rebels' grievances themselves are something else. And take on added dimensions because of their willingness to die for them. The pity is that they did not simply go the route of Chavit Singson and exposed the GMA government for what it is, or what they think it to be. Their grievances are perfectly believable, give or take an outsized assertion or two.

They are that GMA's rule has become corrupt and tyrannical, that the defense minister presides over a lucrative arms sale which has benefited the Moro rebels, that this government has no intention of ending the war in Mindanao, that the generals planted the bombs in Davao to fan the fires of war, that GMA and her officials plan to stay in office past their term, that they are contemplating martial law to cling to power.

I've been saying most of those things myself. The corruption is patent and makes a mockery of the lifestyle check as the Geiger counter for detecting thieves in government. The tyranny is just as patent, anti-terrorism having become the main preoccupation of government, which has turned the military and police once again into the praetorian guards of this country. I do not know that Angelo Reyes is the chief arms supplier of the MILF, but it is not unbelievable that some military officials may be engaged in gunrunning in Mindanao and elsewhere.

Clearly, the government has no intention of ending the war in Mindanao. The Abu Sayyaf, as I've kept saying, is the best thing that has happened to GMA and Reyes. It has given GMA the excuse to embrace George Bush's martial cause and Reyes his self-perceived destiny as executive and foreign affairs secretary rolled into one. As to the Davao bombings, I have asked in previous columns who profited most from them. The swiftness with which Rodrigo Duterte and thence Malacañang pinned the blame on the MILF was breathtaking. When all those bombings did was to drag the MILF for the first time into the fray, the government branding it a terrorist group.

I don't know that GMA will go to the extent of declaring, or even contemplating, martial law. She is more likely to adopt a course like Cha-cha, and of course running again. But only because there is no way she can mount martial law. Who can she expect to help her do it?

That is the state of the nation today. A complete and utter mess.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Never the bullet

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE REBELLION of the young officers is most lamentable, for as President Macapagal-Arroyo said, it will leave a train of shattered careers so painstakingly earned by these young officers at the Philippine Military Academy. *Sayang*, it also leaves the republic quite shattered, making it more difficult for the economy to recover. What makes it doubly tragic is that, as former AFP chief of staff Dionisio Santiago put it, taking recourse to arms is so unnecessary—if they don't like GMA, there's the 2004 elections to replace her. That is how democracy works—through the ballot, never the bullet.

* * *

On the eve of the State of the Nation Address, we had Interior Secretary Joey Lina as guest at our Sunday dzRH program. While the two half-hour-segments concentrated on the government's successful anti-drug campaign, we took time to prod Lina into rating GMA's' performance vis-à-vis delivery of last year's Sona promises. He replied that, with some "*sipsip*" thrown in, he would rate her 9 in a scale of 1 to 10. *Sobra naman ang taas niyan*, I kidded him, noting that Rep. Joey Salceda gave his former professor only a passing mark. Lina rattled off a number of administration accomplishments, such as the taming of the monster budget and the inflation rate that's lowest in 22 years, and the successful anti-drug campaign; he also cited the court decisions regarding the Marcos Swiss deposits and the coco levy funds. But what seems to have impressed him most is GMA's prodigious energies and capacity for hard work.

During our taping, the DILG chief was fresh from the spectacular raid on what he termed the "grandmother of shabu laboratories" in Tanza, Cavite. The facility can produce from 30 to 40 kilos of shabu a day! The President arrived to inspect the laboratory whose front is a half-hectare seaside resort. As Lina told her that the resort would make a very good drug rehabilitation center if the government could confiscate it, GMA remarked that would be "poetic justice."

* * *

Last July 18, numerous fisherfolk organizations as well as individuals and NGOs sympathetic to their plea, aired an appeal to President Macapagal in a full-page ad in the INQUIRER, to restore the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Administrative Order (DAO) 17. This was a landmark order signed by former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez in June 2001, which set aside 15 kilometers of municipal coastal waters for the exclusive use of the marginalized fisherfolk, and off limits to the bigger commercial fishing outfits "whose destructive gears have damaged the marine ecosystem, the fertile breeding grounds of fish." A fruition of the Fisheries Modernization Act, Alvarez's populist move, strongly opposed by big vested interests, was welcomed not only by the country's three million small fishermen, but also the League of Municipalities. The municipal mayors realized that by enabling the coastal waters to regenerate, DAO 17 would improve the small fisherfolk's daily catch, which had pitiably dwindled to two kilos a day.

* * *

As the fisherfolk put it, sadly the first thing Alvarez's successor, Secretary Elisea Gozun, did was to completely revoke DAO 17 in obvious capitulation to certain members of the Commission on Appointments representing big vested interests. The fisherfolk also said Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, first cousin of Rep. Celso Lobregat, who nailed down Gozun to a "written promise" to revoke it during the Commission on Appointments hearing, now offers a watered-down version under which the small fishers "will lose preferential rights over coastal areas."

As the nation hears GMA's Sona, we can only hope that just as she has been sensitive to the plight of the coconut farmers, for whom she is forging a seed fund of P700 million from the UCPB for small loans and other benefits, she would listen to the plight of the coastal fisherfolk now pleading for the restoration of DAO 17. A "Strong Republic" can only be as strong as the marginalized sectors released from the bondage of poverty.

* * *

I earlier aired the appeal of 32-year-old secular priest Alberto "Toto" Villosillo of the parish of Milagros, Masbate who recently underwent a successful kidney transplant at the National Kidney Institute. Father Toto's problem is that his P500,000-hospital bill was paid for with borrowed funds and a promissory note and he needs very expensive medicines for the next six months. His case highlights the need for health insurance for priests especially those from the poorer parishes.

Interestingly, one of the recent awardees of the Ateneo University's "Bukas Palad Award" was Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco, SVD, 61. A philosophy professor, he is perhaps better appreciated for his special apostolate—his continuing support and care for sick, aging and neglected diocesan priests, especially the retired. Vengco founded the Ephesus Ministry in 1993, which now serves some 160 retired priests throughout Luzon, and the "Kadiwa sa Pagkapari" in 1999 to provide help to incumbent priests through regular "dalaw-pari" visits, spiritual programs, supplies of medicines, clothing and other needs. Two years ago, mainly through his efforts, the Libingang-Bantayog for priests in his hometown of Hagonoy, Bulacan was opened as a fitting resting place for its priest-sons.

For his care and concern for retired, aged and ailing diocesan priests, Monsignor Vengco was awarded the "Bukas Palad Award," which is given in memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, S.J. Maybe Vengco could devote his organizational skills to helping the Church work out a more scientific way to care for her priests especially in the matter of health insurance, as this is urgently needed.

'Rogues' gallery' of BIR and BOC men

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

UNTIL the INQUIRER published the photos of Edwin Abella, Percival Salazar, Lucien Sayuno and Manuel Valencia last July 21, the four were hardly public figures. Now, they're familiar names to the people who read the newspaper or its website, INQ7.net that day, or listened or watched the radio and TV stations that carried the news about them.

By way of backgrounder, last Monday's banner story ("4 BIR, BOC officials fail lifestyle check") was about the unexplained wealth charges that the Department of Finance was planning to file the following day against the four men—two Bureau of Internal Revenue assistant commissioners (Abella and Salazar), one BIR regional director (Sayuno) and one Bureau of Customs warehousing chief (Valencia)—with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Their official salaries, which do not exceed P25,000 a month for each, are reportedly disproportionate to their assets consisting of subdivision lots, cock farms, rice field, dollar account, luxury vehicles and membership in golf and country clubs.

Accompanying the news were close-up photos of the four and a picture of a house in Parañaque City that Valencia allegedly owns. The photo captions listed their net worth, assets and monthly salaries. If the figures were to be believed, it was impossible for them to have acquired those assets on their official salaries.

The story was aired in several radio and TV programs. The propriety of the INQUIRER publishing on its front page the photos of the four in "rogues' gallery" fashion, or like men wanted by the police, was discussed in an afternoon radio talk show.

Publicity

The phoned-in reaction of the radio listeners was divided. Some commended the newspaper for the way it handled the news. They felt it was time the "crocodiles in government" were exposed and shamed publicly. Others thought the newspaper engaged in trial by publicity. That until the four are found guilty, the newspaper has no right to treat them like convicted criminals.

The e-mail and letters I received from the readers reflected a similar diversity of opinion. A reader, with initials BTM, who works for a brokerage company, wrote: "I am privy to all the daily transactions that transpire in the Bureau of Customs, particularly at the Manila Port. I know how exceedingly rich customs officials are. The system allows them to be so.

"I am one of those who are skeptical about the government's drive on 'lifestyle check' on government officials. The active role taken by the media, most noteworthy of which is PDI, is turning this farce into a more serious project. Skeptics like me are now more inclined to contribute our share hoping that this will somehow check, if not finally put an end, to the corruption that besets this country."

Then the reader gave the names of certain customs officials and their modus operandi in extorting money from the people they do business with. Since the rest of the letter is too lengthy to be reprinted, I will instead forward it to the proper finance department officials so they can act on it.

Conspiracy

It did not surprise me that the president of the BIR Concerned Employees Association, Elmer Lee, wrote to protest the publication of the photos. He said "the headline story of the INQUIRER which highlights the failure of three BIR officials in the lifestyle check conducted by the Department of Finance raised doubts on the sincerity of the publisher in his commitment to responsible journalism.

"The uncalled for printing of their pictures more than substantiates the malicious intent of the publisher to humiliate and malign them, even before they are charged and convicted, like hardened criminals, and is a blatant disregard of their right to privacy and presumption of innocence.

"It only strengthens our doubts *(sic)* that it is part of a demolition job being orchestrated against the institution they represent to justify the passage of the National Revenue Authority bill now pending in Congress. The BIRCEA, representing the rank and file employees of the bureau, strongly condemns this grand conspiracy to justify the BIR's abolition at all means *(sic)*."

Before I go any further, let me clarify first the point raised against the publisher of the INQUIRER. The decision to publish the news and photos in the manner they came out was made by the editor in chief, not the publisher. The latter can give suggestions on the presentation of the news, but it is the editor in chief who has the final say on what news and photos will be published by the newspaper.

Reacting to complaints about the unfair treatment of the four government employees, the editor in chief said she does not see anything wrong with her handling of the news about them. The source of the news is the complaint filed by the finance department with the Ombudsman on the day the news was published. The charges affect the national interest that the public had the right to know.

Evaluation

I agree with the action taken by the editor in chief.

The news in question involves public officials who swore, before assuming their posts, to obey the laws of the land and faithfully and honestly perform their duties and responsibilities to the Filipino people.

The charge sheets against the four men are well documented. They contain names, figures and other information that show that the finance department was not engaged in a "witch hunt" or conspiracy to put in disrepute the two major revenue generating agencies of the government.

If the complaints were filed by unknown personalities, it would be easy to dismiss the act as a cheap political stunt and therefore unworthy of news coverage. But with no less than the finance secretary and BIR commissioner endorsing the graft charges, its news value is beyond reproach.

I still believe public office is a public trust. It is not meant to be used as a vehicle for the advancement of the personal interests of its occupant. At a time when the people's faith in the government is being eroded, the media cannot be faulted for informing the public of the steps the government is taking to regain that trust.

If it is any consolation to the four employees, the editorial staff promised that in case they are cleared of the graft charges, news about their acquittal will be accorded a treatment similar to that of July 21. Their photos will be published with the word "acquitted" prominently placed above their pictures.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Not by meal rations alone

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

EVEN as the military here in Sulu is making some kind of headway in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf (okay, the anti-terrorism campaign), now comes the "spectacular" escape of Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a Jemaah International terrorist, along with two ASG operatives.

Investigation into this latest embarrassment points to police officers' alleged involvement in facilitating the Great Escape.

Still a mystery to this day is how Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, and years later, Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faizal Marohombsar, could have made their own getaway from the same detention facility without a little help from friends there.

The alleged collusion between some high-ranking military officers and the ASG in that other spectacular escape in Lamitan is still fresh in the memory although nothing so far has been seen or heard of the report on the congressional investigation into the incident.

And it keeps coming back like a song—a most discordant one—the speculation about government negotiators and even military officers having taken cuts from the ransom paid for the Sipadan hostages, which dies down whenever former chief negotiator Robert Aventajado threatens a libel suit against the rumormongers.

All these incidents and the disturbing suspicions and speculations they inevitably generate in the public mind can only result in further mistrust of the military and the police, with the devastating consequence of demoralization in the ranks, especially among the front-liners.

In my forays into the countryside, I have seen the makeshift camps of soldiers and the deplorable conditions that they live in, even as they have to obey orders to get up and go into the jungle in the dead of night, whatever the weather, not to mention the inferior equipment with which they have to fight in unfamiliar terrain a shadowy but very dangerous enemy, who know the land like the palm of their hand and can disappear at will.

For me nothing could have more graphically illustrated the present state of the Philippine military than those two photos published in the INQUIRER during the Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercises held last year.

One picture showed an American and Filipino soldier taking a nap near enough to each other to fit into the camera's frame, the former in a comfortable folding bed, presumably part of his government-issued combat gear; the latter in a nondescript hammock that he probably made himself.

The other photo was enough to make the Filipino soldier a laughingstock, but the TV footage of the incident was unforgettable.

There was this officer, nameless here forevermore, riding piggyback on a poor boat handler to keep his pretty feet from getting wet while an American officer, ramrod straight, waded through the water in strides that would have done Gen. Douglas MacArthur proud.

As a fitting finale to his ignominious little skit, this same creature crab-climbed aboard the ferry, so fearful of drowning in three feet of water.

Earlier there were reports, later denied by top military brass, that among the restive and disgruntled young officers were those assigned in Basilan and Sulu.

Should this be surprising?

Sure, there is the expected litany of grievances—low pay, etc., that elicit the expected band-aid responses of increased pay, more benefits and other mechanisms of appeasement, even as superiors try to damage-control with denials of discontent. Some in the civilian sector point out the huge military budget as if it were a panacea for whatever it is the soldiers are complaining about.

But are these complaints just a matter of pesos and centavos?

Maybe "in a world where everything is a transaction," as that crass TV plug reminds us repeatedly, it may be difficult to imagine the soldiers not living by, or fighting for, meal rations alone.

Nor, by the very nature of their mission, should they.

But then again, are such complaints merely part of a scripted threat to pull a coup, for whatever sinister motives of their so-called "agitators"?

I don't know how much idealism these discontented young officers have still remaining since they left the Philippine Military Academy or whether they have lost all of it to allow themselves to be used in some adventure to destabilize this already destabilized country.

But if they do still have that idealism which most of us presume is what impelled them to air their discontent, the more crucial question is how long they can hold on to it as they slosh through rain and mud, while their officers disdain to get their feet wet.

Indeed, how much longer as they stare death in the face while their superiors let the enemy's leaders escape from jail? Or through a back gate?

The issue regarding low pay and other things quantifiable is valid enough, but isn't there more than meets the eye in this restiveness?

Is it enough that some heads rolled among Al-Ghozi's jailers? Enough to conduct a congressional investigation into the alleged military-Abu Sayyaf collusion just to prove whether Fr. Cirilo Nacorda was telling the truth? Is it enough to dangle lollipops and roses before these restive young officers?

This may sound terribly boring, but isn't it about time we asked the question "why?"

* * *

Comments to nm19@my.smart.com.ph

Jose Rizal needs a lawn mower

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

ZAMBOANGA del Norte's jagged seaside cliffs and the two arms of a rushing river embrace Dapitan Bay in a semi-ring of stone and water, where the town of Dapitan holds the nation's shrine to that remarkable man who once was exiled there between July 17, 1892 and July 31, 1896—Jose Rizal, the excommunicated Mason at Dapitan, who is also the Philippine National Hero.

But it almost always rains on the Fiesta of Dapitan ("Viva! Señor Santiago!")—July 25 and last Friday was no exception, as I discovered when I got up before the crack of dawn intending to visit Talisay, Rizal's 16-hectare bayside estate, now a national shrine.

It was a gray, desultory morning, with the rain pelting down in slanting rays against an impossible background of coconut trees, the seashore with its breaking surf in the leaden bay and a misty morning. I hailed a passing tricycle. I could see Talisay in the distance, shrouded in ocean mists, as we sped west and north toward it.

When I got there, a Rizalista, an old lady, her even more ancient husband or father, and an implausibly young child, were cleaning the grounds with sticks and their hands. Just the day before, the curator of the place, apparently the only paid employee of the national government at the site, told me their lawn mower broke down, so would we excuse the weeds and undergrowth. (I said I would post this notice, as I hereby do, in case someone would like to lend Jose Rizal a lawn mower.)

Why does he lack for a lawn mower? It's a long complicated story involving national versus local government authorities that I don't want to get into right now. But he just does. You would weep if you saw the state he is in.

I for one didn't mind the lush undergrowth at Talisay. I loved the viridescent shade of so much green reflected into the shadows. I marveled at the gnarled roots of the towering baluna tree in front of his reconstructed house, that were already ancient and impressive in size and complexity even when Rizal lay in the shade of its canopies with the exquisite Josephine Bracken.

I had actually come back to see at early morning the so-called Rock of "Mi Retiro" ("My Retreat"), a large boulder now in an artificial lagoon by the sea, where Rizal is traditionally held to have composed his famous poem of that name.

But it wasn't only with love that Rizal was obsessed, but with truth. Here is my favorite excerpt from his Third Letter demolishing the casuistry of the Taliban apologist, his own beloved friend and mentor, Pablo Pastells, S.J.:

"Therefore in the light of the knowledge of the past and present, I weigh things, try to determine their causes and the finality of their activity, and strive to follow the direction they take. I see in everyone an inborn desire to know; I see the world outside full of colors, qualities and incentives that nourish this desire; I see misery as the chastisement of ignorance, well-being as the prize of knowledge.

"Reflecting on the mysterious sentiment of sympathy, its dynamism and transformations, I become aware of the impulse that commands us to love one another, and I take as God's word the religious command that everyone must love the neighbor as himself. Seeing how freedom when overrated destroys and ruins the principle of life in a living thing which can subsist by itself, seeing the daily lesson in all creation of how weak creatures—from nestling birds to young lions in the den—are given support and protection, but as soon as they can get on by themselves, freedom and room for action; I find justification for the precepts of charity and respect for the rights of others. At first glance, after a superficial examination, we get the impression that the law of struggle holds sway and it is might that wins the day.

"But after careful study, when we contemplate the skeletons of gigantic monsters now gone from the face of the earth, when we read in history the epitaphs of great and mighty empires which lived off the life and freedom of humanity, when we see how the cat lives on as the tiger disappears, how shopkeepers increase in number as conquistadors vanish; we become better aware of the principles of peace, the triumph of the mind and the law of universal harmony—harmony which follows the world in its rapid course, demanding life for all and freedom for all. Those who consume more than they produce incur the hatred of the world, and victory belongs only to the one who seeks the perfection of others as well as his own."

In his letters to Pastells, Rizal speaks for Rizal, not as a fictionist, but as someone who might today write a letter to the editor to protest some injustice or decry some apocryphal habit of mind or politics. This Rizal, if free of exile, would also agree with the great American jurist, Frederick Douglass who said:

"Your forefathers were men of peace, but they preferred revolution to peaceful submission to bondage. They were quiet men; but they did not shrink from agitating against oppression. They showed forbearance; but that they knew its limits. They believed in order; but not in the order of tyranny. With them, nothing was settled that was not right. With them, justice, liberty and humanity were final; not slavery and oppression. You may well cherish the memory of such men. They seized upon eternal principles, and set a glorious example in their defense. Mark them!" *(More at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)*

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LETTERS

History to judge GMA harshly

TODAY President Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver her State of the Nation Address (Sona). At the same time, people from various sectors will give their critical assessment of her administration based on her national policies regarding people's issues and demands: Why is the workers' legitimate demand for wage increase not met? Why is land reform a continuing demand of farmers? What are the implications of renewed US troops deployment in the Philippines? Is GMA truly for the interest of the Filipino people or a willing serf of US-led globalization? Why are human rights violations and political repression rising under her leadership? Why has the peace talks collapsed? The questions never cease. The answers are not easy.

We, as church people, are also called to make a critical judgment about the state of our nation according to our commitment for peace based on justice. We should reflect based on moral values, ethical perspective and Biblical imperative. The voice of God summons us to find meaning and take concerted action on the challenges of our time. One thing is clear: On the issue of the US war on Iraq alone, we have witnessed the brazen puppetry and disregard of GMA of the Christian value for life and peace.

As peace-loving Christians, we are dismayed, ashamed and most regretful that President Macapagal has no regrets for her pro-war stance despite recent evidence that the US war on Iraq was based on a faulty intelligence report on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We totally regret that GMA is the President of this nation.

As a self-proclaimed devoted Christian, how can GMA not regret the death of innocent Iraqis? As a self-proclaimed economic expert, how can GMA not regret the worsening economic crisis suffered especially by the poor children and women of Iraq? As a highly educated person, how can GMA not regret the massive destruction and looting of valuable historical marks and resources of Iraq?

GMA has totally shamed the Philippines in the international community of nations by her utter puppetry to US imperialism through her full support for its war against the innocents, a position contrary to Christian morality, the stand of her Church and the ordinary norms of human decency and justice.

GMA has become totally infamous for her unwavering support of the US attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq. History will judge GMA as the most shameless US puppet, a militarist and anti-people President of our country.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM,
spokesperson, Promotion of Church
People's Response, 3/F NCCP Building,
879 Edsa, Quezon City

NFA office in Ortigas temporary

THIS is in connection with the issues raised by the NFA Employees Association (NFA-EA) on the transfer of the agency's main office from Quezon City to One San Miguel Avenue in Ortigas, Pasig City.

I would like to make it clear that when Arthur C. Yap assumed office in October 2002, the issue of the transfer, many times a subject of discussion in the NFA Council since 2000, was already a foregone conclusion. It was just awaiting a decision for implementation.

Last year, the NFA management created two teams to scout for a suitable building for the NFA Central Office. Both teams, one of which included NFA-EA representatives, conducted their evaluation based on a uniform set of parameters and in accordance with the rules and guidelines under the Manual on Lease of Lands, Buildings and Space.

In a meeting last July 2, 2003, the NFA Council approved and confirmed the decision to transfer to the One San Miguel Avenue building "considering the safety of the employees and after the conduct of canvass and compliance to existing laws and issuances on the lease of office space."

At the same time, however, the council also ordered the NFA management to look for all possible financial schemes for the construction of a permanent NFA building on our property along Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. In this connection, the NFA management created a committee of NFA executives and representatives from the NFA-EA to conduct a study on the proposed NFA building. Its recommendations will be submitted to the NFA Council Executive Committee. The NFA Council agreed that "before the two-year Contract of Lease with One San Miguel Building expires, the NFA Central Office Building in Visayas Avenue shall have been completed and ready for occupancy."

On the issue of costs, our General Services Directorate estimated the transfer cost to reach P11.7 million. In addition to this, we also have to pay the mandatory deposit and advance payments worth P15 million and another P15 million for the first three months of our stay in the building. It must be understood, however, that payment of deposit and advance rental is a standard business practice and this amount is consumable for the duration of our stay in the building.

We would like to assure our employees, stakeholders and the public that the NFA office in Ortigas is temporary.

—PEDRO S. HERNANDO JR.,
deputy administrator
for finance and administration,
National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg.,
101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City

PCA not sleeping on the job

THIS is a rejoinder to the column of Neal H. Cruz ("Why did it take so long?") in the INQUIRER issue of July 14, 2003 accusing the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA, formerly Philcoa) as an agency that "has been fattening on the coconut industry for decades," doing nothing "except collect taxes from the farmers," "a very fat, quite contented cow" that "nobody noticed that it is sleeping on the job."

First, we would like to assure Cruz that since the suspension of the coconut levy in 1982, the bulk of the operational support to the PCA from the coco levy R & D allocation, was totally and permanently cut off. From 1986 to the present, during which the levy was under sequestration, the PCA never received a single centavo from the levy funds.

In the last decade or so, the PCA has been subsisting on meager national subsidy to maintain its operations. The PCA is neither fat nor fattened. On the contrary, it is financially emaciated. Travel vouchers covering visits of our extension workers to coconut farmers remain unpaid by the agency for lack of funds. But, despite the budget handicap, the PCA never slept on its job.

From 1992 to 1999, it implemented the productivity and rehabilitation program for small coconut farmers. The hectarage of replanted and fertilized coconut farms under this program saved the country from the adverse impact of the El Niño series of 1994 to 2002.

In 1992, the PCA assisted in organizing small coconut farmers' organizations to put them in the mainstream of participants and beneficiaries of the World Bank productivity program. The organized small coconut farmers likewise contributed much in the advocacy for the recovery of the coconut levy, which culminated in the partial decision of the Supreme Court in December of 2001 and the recent Sandiganbayan ruling.

Many of the potential products from coconut mentioned by Cruz were developed in the laboratories and research facilities of the PCA over the last few years. Many more mature technologies have been developed by the PCA for adoption by farm-based and small-to medium-size entrepreneurs. The problem lies in the lack of adequate capital and investment to commercialize and promote these products to higher markets, both domestic and foreign.

As resource representative, in compliance with the instruction of the President, the PCA designed and submitted to the PCGG and UCPB-CIIF a Coconut Farmers Safety Net Program for funding by the UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development Corp. to the tune of P70 million in additional capital.

The PCA will be there as service provider and will be able to assist more meaningfully if the levy, now declared as a public fund owned by the government, will be used to sustain the productivity and income enhancement programs for the coconut farmers.

—DANILO M. CORONACION,
administrator, Philippine Coconut Authority,
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

An extra jewel in the crown of celibate priesthood

I WISH to take issue with letter-writer Dave Tabaniag who sees in the notion of married clergy people who seek "the best of both worlds." The expression conjures an image of priesthood and marriage as two irreconcilable prizes, of which men are free to choose only one.

The reality is quite different. The priesthood was instituted not for personal advancement but for the good of other people. Similarly, the holy state of marriage exists not merely for the benefit of the partners, but also for the family, which is a microcosm of the whole community.

Perhaps, Tabaniag is not aware that even today, as in the days of the 12 apostles, the church sanctions married priests in many countries outside the Philippines, and that these men greatly enrich the priestly ministry, with their particular understanding of the married state. Such priests have been ordained in my own country within the United Kingdom, where they lived as married Protestant clergymen before their conversion to Catholicism.

Many men, like myself, did not have this option, and were ordained first as celibate deacons, often at the age of 23, after a sheltered youth, unaware that what seemed like a free choice of celibacy was in fact made under hidden pressures. Later they were compelled to choose one of three options: they could continue as celibate priests or seek dispensation from their promise of celibacy or else lead a double life as a priest with a secret mistress. I have the greatest respect for priests who wish to marry but remain celibate. In some cases, their internal conflict can lead to a creative ministry, but in others it destroys the person or leads to a great deal of scandal.

I believe that an extension of the present discipline, by allowing all priests the option at present reserved to a few to choose to be married, would add an extra jewel in the crown of the church's celibate priesthood.

—JAMES HEYES,
j-heyes1@hotmail.com

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US forces miss Saddam by 24 hours

TIKRIT, Iraq—US soldiers based here said they missed catching Saddam Hussein's security chief—and possibly the former dictator himself—by a mere 24 hours early Sunday, and south of Baghdad a US Marine was killed in a grenade attack.

Troops stormed three farms in Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, in simultaneous pre-dawn raids after receiving a tip that Saddam's new security chief was staying at one of the farm houses, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, who led the operation by the of the 4th Infantry.

"We missed him by 24 hours," Russell said, adding residents told soldiers that the man they sought had been at one of the farm houses.

The military in Baghdad said one US Marine was killed and one was wounded in the grenade attack just south of the capital. The death was the first of the week after one of the bloodiest seven-day periods in the guerrilla war against American forces since US President George W. Bush declared major combat in Iraq was over on May 1.

The military said it had no further information on the attack, which occurred at 2:35 a.m.

The death brought to 48 the number of US forces killed in combat in Iraq since May 1. So far, 163 US soldiers have died in the war, 16 more than the number of those killed in the 1991 Gulf War.

There had been hope that the killings on Tuesday of Uday and Qusay Hussein, two of Saddam Hussein's sons and Nos. 2 and 3 on the US most-wanted list, in the northern city of Mosul might demoralize the resistance. Instead, their deaths appear to have inspired a wave of revenge attacks.

Four US soldiers were killed Saturday, three in a grenade attack outside a children's hospital in Baqouba, 70 km northeast of Baghdad, and one in a bomb and rocket-propelled grenade attack just west of the capital near the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

In Tikrit on Thursday, US troops of the 4th Infantry Division captured a group of men believed to include five to 10 of Saddam's bodyguards in a raid in the city. After that soldiers learned that Saddam's new security chief and possibly the dictator himself were staying on one of the farms, Russell said.

"The noose is tightening around these guys," said Col. James C. Hickey, a brigade commander. "They're running out of places to hide, and it's becoming difficult for them to move because we're everywhere. Any day now we're going to knock on their door, or kick in their door, and they know it."

The Army would not name the man they had targeted, but said he was believed to have taken over Saddam's security after the arrest of Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, Saddam's cousin and presidential secretary on June 17.

Mahmud, who was No. 4 on the US most wanted Iraqis list, controlled all access to Saddam. He and Saddam's younger son Qusay were believed to be the only two people trusted with knowledge about Saddam's whereabouts.

Hundreds of soldiers, backed by Bradley fighting vehicles, surrounded the farms as Apache attack helicopters hovered above. No shots were fired. About 25 men were in the houses and emerged peacefully. They were briefly detained and released later Sunday. *AP*

Burma junta warned of outside intervention

LANGKAWI, Malaysia—Malaysia warned Burma (Myanmar) on Sunday to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi or risk intervention from the United Nations or other countries.

"It is wiser for Myanmar to listen now," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters.

"This is in the context of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), it is within our grasp, we can manage it and handle it.

"But if nothing happens, then we are concerned by the possibility that other countries, other regional organizations including the United Nations, may come in to decide their fate, then it will be more difficult."

Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi has been in detention since political violence on May 30, despite international demands that she be released.

"Myanmar need not be isolated, they can be mainstream but it depends on them. They have to pay heed to the wishes of the international community, including Asean," Syed Hamid said on the sidelines of a Malaysia-Thai business forum here.

Thailand's proposed "road map" for democratic reform was a step forward in trying to resolve the deadlock, he said.

"It depends very much on Myanmar's acceptance of it, how they perceive it, but Asean's bottom line is that Aung San Suu Kyi should be released and the reconciliation process should commence," he said.

Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said the road map was merely a "friendly suggestion" for Burma to work toward national reconciliation and not an interference in its affairs.

"This is not considered as intervention in the domestic affairs of Myanmar," he said. "It's not like we, an outsider, working on something and asking them to accept it. It's basically producing a draft, a dummy of a road map rather, for them to comment on."

He said Thailand had so far only exchanged views on the road map with Myanmar and had not submitted any formal document.

"Right now, we are putting on paper a comprehensive framework," he said. "The release of Aung San Suu Kyi is the first step." *AFP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Grenade explosion

PHNOM PENH—A grenade blew up on a sidewalk outside the royalist Funcinpec party headquarters and two unexploded grenades were found near the Royal Palace during general elections Sunday, police said. No one was hurt. The incidents happened a few hours after Cambodians began voting in parliamentary elections to choose a new National Assembly. No one immediately claimed responsibility. Two leading parties said the grenades were an attempt to sabotage the polls. At least 16 people were killed during the month-long campaign for the elections. *AP*

Strong quake

TOKYO—A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 shook northern Japan on Sunday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake was centered about 480 km under the seabed off the western coast of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, at a location about 1,300 km northwest of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. It struck at 3:26 p.m. The agency said there was no danger of tsunami, powerful ocean waves caused by seismic activity. The quake was most strongly felt in Aomori and Iwate, the two farthest-north prefectures (states) on Japan's main island of Honshu. *AP*

Armistice marked

PANMUNJOM, Korea—Old soldiers from around the world, some in wheelchairs and many wearing combat medals, commemorated the 50th anniversary Sunday of the armistice that ended the Korean War. The ceremony came amid fresh concerns about the North Korean military threat—this time over its nuclear ambitions. More than 1,000 veterans gathered out of the rain in a tent in Panmunjom, the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone where the ceasefire was signed, ending three years of war that left up to 5 million people dead, injured or missing. "The most difficult part of the war was what was left behind. Your buddies, people who didn't make it," said a tearful Fred Daniel Bertrand, who was a US Marine sergeant in the final year of the Korean conflict. *AP*

Suicide bomber

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia—A female suicide bomber detonated explosives Sunday near a base of a security force commanded by a son of the head of Chechnya's Moscow-backed administration, killing herself and injuring a woman who was nearby, officials said. The attacker blew herself up in the Kurchaloi district of Chechnya, southeast of the capital Grozny, outside a base of a division of administration chief Akhmad Kadyrov's security force, Chechnya's Emergency Situations Minister Ruslan Avtayev said. Avtayev characterized the bombing as an attack aimed at Kadyrov's son Ramzan Kadyrov, who heads the division of the security force and was at the base at the time. *AP*

Militants freed

JERUSALEM—Israel's Cabinet voted Sunday to release up to 100 Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners, Israel Radio and Army Radio report. The reports said ministers voted by 14-9 to authorize the release of the militants, a goodwill gesture toward the Palestinians ahead of Prime Minster Ariel Sharon's visit to Washington this week. The Palestinians want Israel to release most of the estimated 7,700 Palestinian prisoners it holds. Israel has agreed to free a few hundred, but had previously said these would not include members of the Islamic militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. *AP*

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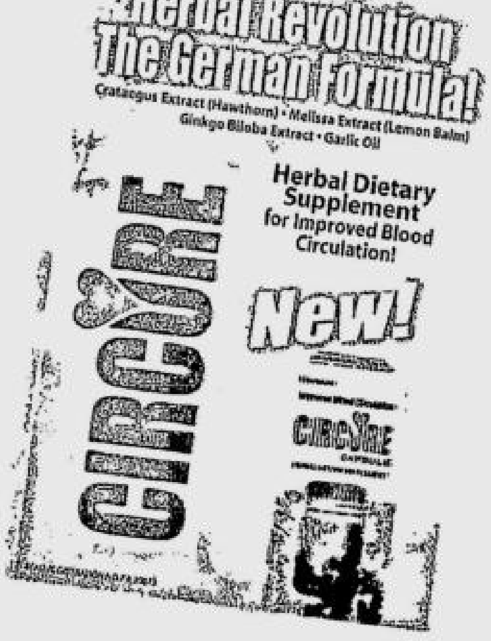
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Singapore asked to do more for foreign maids

SINGAPORE—Singapore's tough campaign to curb employer abuses against foreign maids has improved their working conditions, but civic activists calling for more reforms say various forms of indignities persist.

Mostly poor women from the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, maids constitute almost one-fifth of the 800,000 foreigners working in Singapore, whose 4.2 million people enjoy one of Asia's highest living standards.

Instead of imposing mandatory guidelines on how maids should be paid and treated, the government chooses to protect them using stiff penalties and administrative measures, with mixed results.

Police figures show maid abuse cases heard in court have been declining since 1997, dropping from 157 that year to 43 last year. In 1998, stiffer jail terms and fines were imposed to deter physical and other forms of abuse.

In March last year, a Singapore woman was jailed for five years for various counts of abuse, including biting a nipple off an Indonesian maid.

In the most extreme case, Ng Hua Chye, a 47-year-old male tour guide, was sentenced to more than 18 years' jail and 12 strokes of the cane for manslaughter after his Indonesian maid died following nine months of beatings which left more than 200 injuries.

It was the first instance of a maid killed by an employer, but reports of assaults and abusive working conditions continue. Maids have also fallen to their deaths cleaning high-rise apartment windows.

A recent study conducted by The Working Committee 2 (TWC2), a nonprofit organization seeking to improve the welfare of domestic workers, found that out of 147 cases of abuse they studied, 68 percent involved physical injuries.

TWC2 member Constance Singam said physical abuse was only the tip of the iceberg, with the mundane problems of the domestic workers largely ignored.

"We only know about the extreme cases of abuse," she said, citing everyday practices like getting maids to wash the car, work long hours and wake up to feed someone coming home late. Employers also keep passports and withhold wages.

"All these are what we called quiet indignities," Singam said.

Unlike in Hong Kong where the law stipulates a minimum wage and at least one rest day a week, the Singapore government does not provide a standard contract for maids.

According to TWC2, maids in Singapore sign a private contract with employers and are paid between $114 and $200 a month, while their counterparts in Hong Kong are paid about $470 a month.

Citing their unique nature of employment and their part in an "informal economy," the Ministry of Manpower said it was "impractical" to lay down exhaustive rules regarding the minimum welfare guidelines for domestics.

"(They) work in a home environment, which varies from household to household, it would be difficult to enforce any coverage under the Employment Act," a ministry spokesperson said.

"For example, it will be hard to compute overtime payment since their work and rest hours are difficult to define and regulate in the same way as employees working in offices or factories."

Instead, the ministry has in place a list of administrative measures to help protect maids including a mandatory orientation program for employers, a help hotline and a special unit to provide conciliatory services.

In a scheme introduced in May, all employment agencies have to seek accreditation by June next year before their licenses can be renewed.

This helps not only to ensure agencies are governed by more than just their bottom lines, but to also maintain industry standards with such services as spot checks of working conditions and looking into suspected abuse.

TWC2 acknowledged the initiatives taken by the ministry, but suggested more far-reaching changes in a recent report.

The suggestions include reviewing the Employment Act to cover domestics, a one-stop cooperative for them to turn to for help, and a revamped model of employment.

"Perhaps the foreign domestic worker sector can live in dormitories and be ferried to work at the employers. This way, proper working hours will be met and physical abuses can be detected faster," TWC2 coordinator Elaine Ho said.

The recommendations are being discussed with maid agencies, foreign embassies and the government. *AFP*

Castro rejects EU assistance

SANTIAGO—Cuban President Fidel Castro responded on Saturday to European Union criticism of human rights abuses in Cuba by rejecting EU aid and closing the door on political contacts.

"Cuba does not need the aid of the European Union to survive," Castro said in a speech to 10,000 supporters marking the 50th anniversary of the assault he led on the Santiago Army garrison that launched his leftist revolution.

In June, the European Union limited high-level bilateral government visits and reduced the profile of member states' participation in cultural events in Cuba. The European Commission also froze Havana's request to join the aid accord known as the Cotonou Agreement due to a crackdown on dissent in March.

"The government of Cuba, out of a basic sense of dignity, relinquishes any aid or remnant of humanitarian aid that may be offered by the European Commission and the governments of the European Union," Castro said.

He said Cuba would only accept aid from regional or local governments, nongovernment organizations and solidarity movements in Europe "which do not impose political conditions on Cuba."

The European Union annoyed Castro's government by deciding in June to start inviting Cuban dissidents to its national day embassy receptions, which Cuban officials stopped attending.

The diplomatic freeze followed the jailing of 75 dissidents and the execution in April of three Cubans who hijacked a ferry in an attempt to reach the United States.

Castro accused European nations of ganging up on Cuba with the United States, which has maintained sanctions against the Caribbean island for four decades. *Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 28, 203
17th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34
Gospel: Mt 13:31-35

Jesus put another parable before them, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, that a man took and sowed in his field.

"It is smaller than all other seeds, but once it has fully grown, it is bigger than any garden plant; like a tree, the birds come and rest in its branches."

He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast that a woman took and buried in three measures of flour until the whole mass of dough began to rise."

Jesus taught all this to the crowds by means of parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So what the Prophet had said was fulfilled: I will speak in parables. I will proclaim things kept secret since the beginning of the world.

Commentary

The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. The world doesn't always appreciate what is small. Big is what we want; size matters a great deal. What is spectacular is always more appealing and attractive to many. But as Jesus reminds us in the gospel reading today, that is not always the case. The word of God is often hidden in small places and wrapped in small packages. So is faith. A great and generous gesture, a huge donation, a powerful preaching that moves the hearts of thousands to turn to God, are just certainly well appreciated. But so are a small act of gentleness, a kind word of encouragement and support, a word of praise and appreciation for a job well done. These are just as real an expression of faith as the larger and more showy ones. The parable of the yeast says pretty much the same thing. Such a small portion, placed in a huge mixture of flour, seemingly insignificant compared to the big dough mix, seemingly ineffective in doing anything at all, and yet in reality, it is the very thing that makes the whole dough rise. Big is certainly beautiful, powerful, and desirable. But for Jesus, so is the small. In fact, at times, it's even better.

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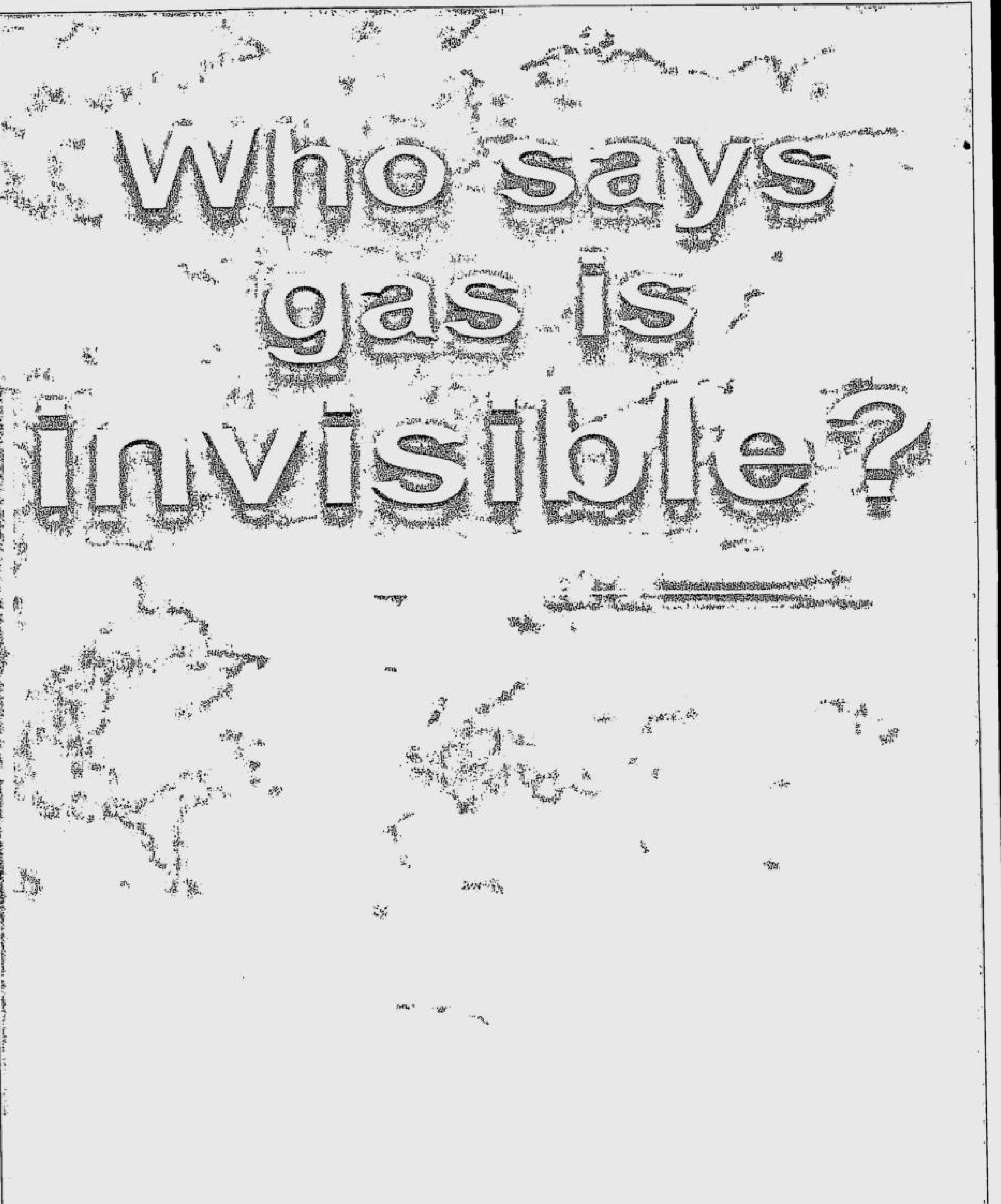

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Mutiny glues most Pinoys to TV, radio

By the PDI Bureaus

AS THE situation remained tense in Metro Manila over the mutiny staged by renegade soldiers on Sunday, most Filipinos remained glued to their television and radio sets to monitor the unfolding drama.

Interviews conducted by the INQUIRER showed that public officials, businesspeople, the religious and common folk were divided on whom to support: the mutineers or the government.

Al Fallorin, a former councilor of Iba, Zambales, described the mutiny as a "wake up call" for the Macapagal administration.

The same was voiced by Bicol Regional Peace and Order Council chair and Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara and Ilocos Norte Vice Gov. Windell Chua. Chua advised residents to stay calm but vigilant in the face of a national threat. "We see this attempt as the vehicle used by these soldiers to send their message to our government. It should be a wake up call for the national leadership. We just hope this conflict is resolved soon because our people are at the losing end," he said.

While Bichara committed his full support to President Macapagal-Arroyo, he pointed out the need for reform, especially in the country's political system, which he said spawns coup attempts.

Bound to fail

Senior Supt. Wilson Victorio, Zambales police director and a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1981, said the mutiny was bound to fail because the officers lacked support from the people. Victorio was a former member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

"It's President Macapagal's fault. She publicly ordered the arrest of the junior officers. She should not have issued strong statements against military officers who could still create trouble," a 27-year-old woman from Mabalacat town said.

"(They) are doing the wrong thing. If they want a raise in their salaries, they should ask for it formally. By the way, they should not have entered the military service if they wanted high salaries. Life is already hard and these people who (consider) themselves as representing the people are making it harder. They should be ashamed of themselves," said Joselito David, an employee of a private firm in Mabalacat.

Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commander of the army's 5th Infantry Division based in Isabela, called the renegade soldiers a "small group of misguided officers." "They should not be punished with mere push ups. The full force of the law should be enforced against them," Bagasin said.

A group supporting President Macapagal, however, criticized Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who was accused of instigating the rebellion, for his supposed role in the crisis.

Gringo's role

"Senator Honasan said, 'Do not underestimate the junior officers.' We, ordinary citizens, say do not underestimate us, ordinary Filipinos. Do not insult our sensibilities with your messianic posturing. We know and feel the problems of our society because ultimately it is us, the ordinary people, who are the first victims of every instability in our society," said Edna de la Cruz, former coordinator of the Kaibigan ni GMA (KGMA) in Ilocos Norte.

De la Cruz said Honasan does not need to impose on people what actions to take. "We all know that change does not take place overnight and if ever we do want to make reforms, it should come from the people, not from any self-appointed messiah," she said.

De la Cruz said the renegade soldiers might have legitimate demands but their action's motive and timing were "very suspicious."

In Tarlac City, former Army Scout Ranger Arsenio Novesteras, 52, said the success of the "coup plotters is a remote possibility, unless they generate mass support."

"They have legitimate grievances but I do not agree with their means to (solve) these grievances," he said.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Northern Luzon Command chief, who served in Mindanao when Abu Sayyaf bandits were at the height of their kidnapping operations, confirmed that corruption exists in the military.

"We are not denying that there is corruption. If we deny it, we cannot correct the problem. There must be a basis for this and we are looking into it. (Armed Forces Chief of Staff) Gen. Narciso Abaya has started acting on the problem," Dominguez said.

Militant groups in Baguio City said the mutiny revealed the extent of corruption in the military. Joan Carling, chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, said the issues that the soldiers raised were those that have long been ignored by the government and the military.

Inherent crisis

"This situation only shows the inherent crisis in the military. It is public knowledge that there are (bad eggs) in the AFP involved in various crimes and this causes demoralization among rank-and-file soldiers," Carling said.

Olongapo City residents expressed fear and disappointment over the mutiny.

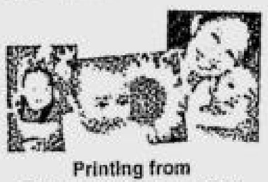
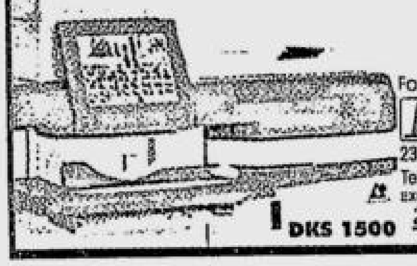
Ian Ferrer, 25, a waiter, said the claims of the officers might have legitimate bases but their means in seeking reforms could hurt the economy and civilians.

"They are just showing ordinary people that armed struggle is the only solution to the country's problems," said Ruby Sales, of Candelaria, Zambales.

Fe Morales, 52, a vegetable vendor in Olongapo, said she was not afraid of any destabilization plot against the government. "It happens all the time and I am used to it. When would we ever learn and improve?" she asked.

Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II condemned the rebellion, saying Congress should immediately "enact a law to impose stiff penalties on military

MUTINY/A16

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Pentagon kidnap gang frees 3-year-old child

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang on Friday freed a three-year-old child it abducted from Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat after the family paid ransom, the military said yesterday.

Jester Horlador's captors released the boy unharmed, according to Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 301st Infantry Brigade based in Sultan Kudarat.

He said the gang dropped the boy somewhere in Pagalungan town, Maguindanao.

Horlador was abducted by at least six Pentagon members, led by a certain Alex Ampatuan, inside their residence in Barangay Tina in Tacurong City on March 25.

Prior to the abduction, the family of the victim received an extortion letter from the Pentagon gang asking for protection money.

The police refused to confirm that a payoff took place between the kidnappers and the family of the victim.

However, Dema-ala told the INQUIRER that the Horlador family paid about P200,000 to the kidnappers as board and lodging. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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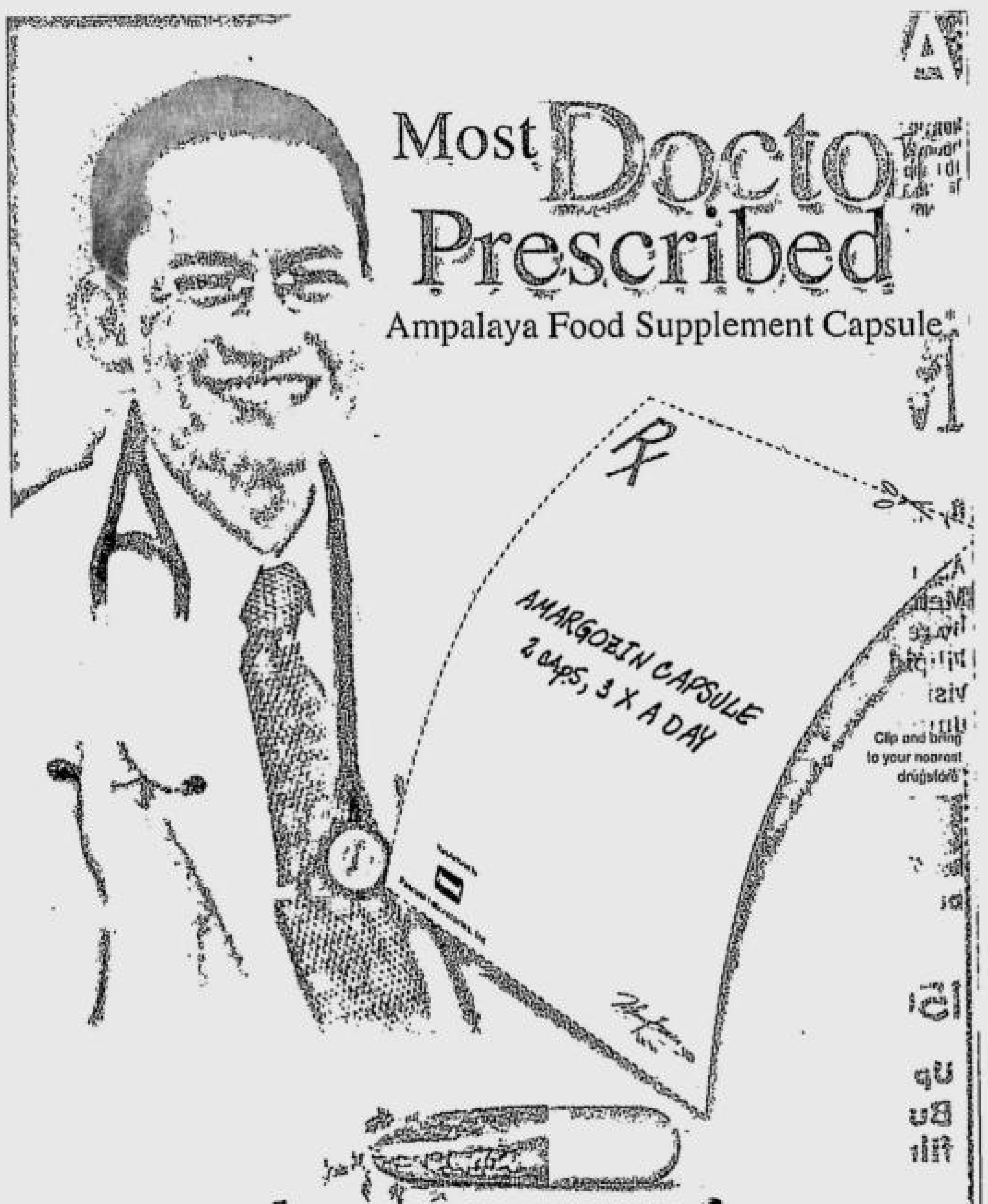
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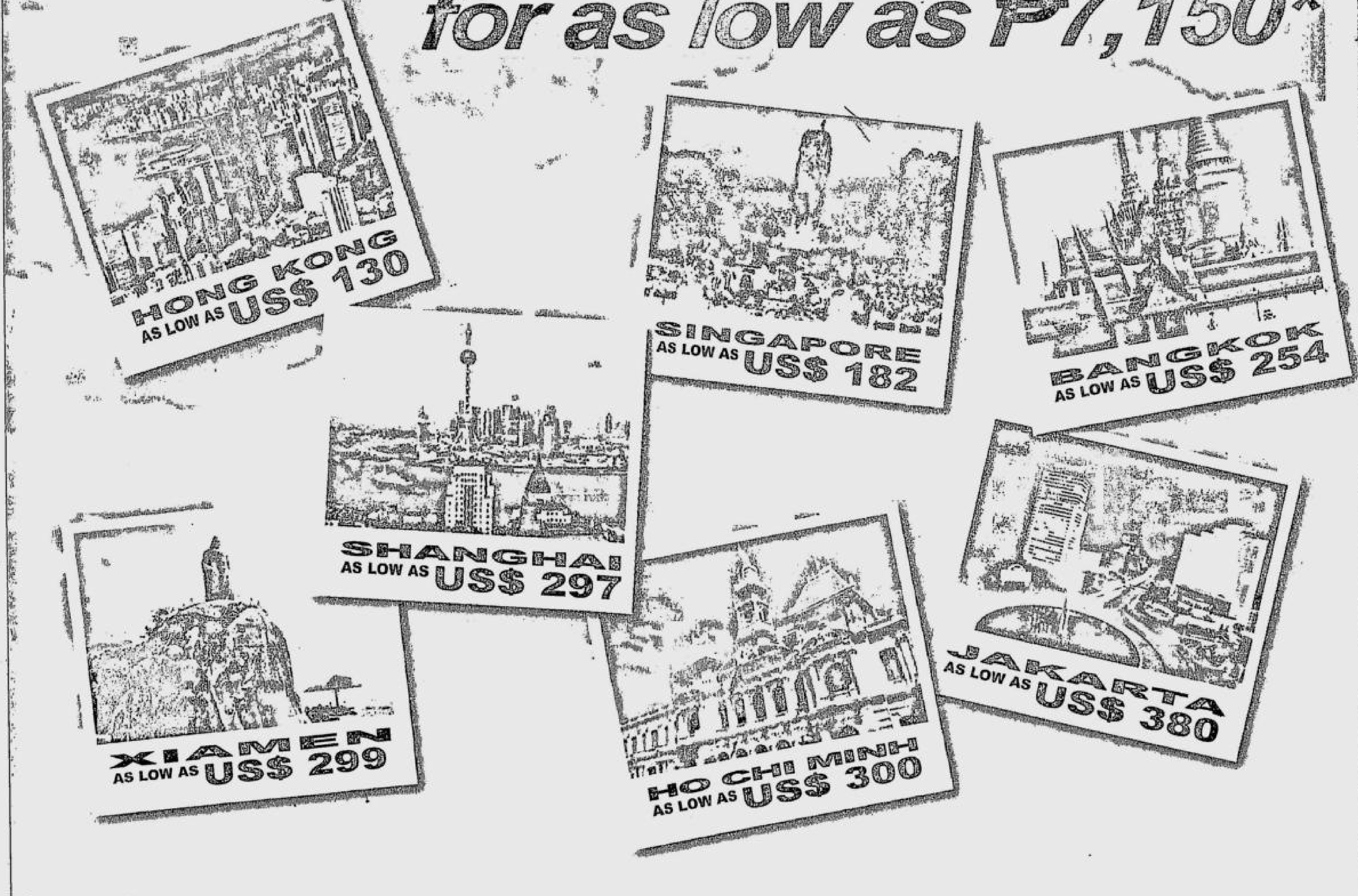

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Mutiny glues most Pinoys to TV, radio

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opportunists."

"Since Edsa 1, some military officials have been resorting to the use of force to air their grievances or to effect change in the government, instead of bringing them to the proper forum," Lacbain said. "This has caused instability in our government which negates whatever economic gains the country has achieved."

In Nueva Ecija, businessman Raggie Espinosa believed that the soldiers involved in the coup would not succeed as they had no popular support from the military and the police.

Many residents in Nueva Ecija were unmindful of the mutiny.

In Tuguegarao City, residents on Sunday contacted their relatives in Metro Manila after news of the siege broke.

Some residents urged the government to tap Honasan, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former senator and defense secretary, Juan Ponce Enrile, to negotiate with the renegade soldiers.

Others suggested asking the wives and relatives of the soldiers to convince them to lay down their arms to end the crisis.

"Filipinos, by nature, respect women so President Macapagal should use her motherly attributes to dissuade the rebels from pursuing the rebellion, instead of acting like a man who is in a fighting mood," a resident said.

Rene Romero, private sector representative in the regional development council (RDC) in Central Luzon, confirmed that preparations were being made to bring Kapampangans to the Edsa Shrine where prayer rallies were held Sunday morning.

Southern Luzon

All 30 municipal and city mayors in Laguna vowed to support the Macapagal administration and the military establishment and urged the disgruntled soldiers to opt for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Laguna League of Mayors president Leon Arcillas of Sta. Rosa said the mutineers should agree on a peaceful resolution to the conflict. "If this crisis prolongs the whole nation will suffer, our economy will collapse, the progress that is being pursued by the present regime will go to naught," Arcillas said.

In his letter to President Macapagal, Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr. said he was saddened by the recent mutiny.

The attempt to challenge the civilian government is repugnant, he said as he pledged his support to the President.

College seminary rector Msgr. Jerry Bitoon said, "the junior officers might have legitimate issues, but these violent ways are unacceptable."

"They are just being used by politicians with sinister interests and long been hated by peace-loving and morally upright Filipinos. We pray for them," Bitoon said.

In Nasugbu, Batangas, a Catholic priest appealed to churchgoers to support the rebel soldiers during a Mass he celebrated on Sunday in Barangay Batulao.

In his homily before over 100 churchgoers, Fr. Richie Santos said the renegade soldiers have valid reasons for breaking the Armed Forces chain of command.

"The President should once and for all listen to these soldiers' call for a graft-free government. Even the police and military generals and senior officers are believed to be involved in corruption," Santos said in Filipino.

The Don Bosconian priest maintained that the event could create economic instability, but could also bring hope to the Filipino people.

"As Jesus sacrificed himself to save the world from sins, the soldiers are also sacrificing their lives and career to create a change in the society," Santos argued.

Nonviolence

But he reiterated that the soldiers should ensure that they air their grievances in a non-violent way.

Paul Herrera, a Manila resident was surprised with Santos' homily. He said the priest should have been an instrument of reconciliation and unity rather than an instrument of divisiveness.

In Legazpi City, priests called on churchgoers and parishioners not to support the disgruntled soldiers for they could only make the situation worse.

Rev. Fr. Jovic Lobrigo, a Bicolano activist-priest of the Albay Cathedral Parish, said they had reminded the public to remain calm.

The Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino called on the rebel soldiers to remain independent of traditional politicians and join the people's movement.

Patricio Ramirez, PMP spokesperson, pointed to President Macapagal and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as the alleged "criminals and terrorists" and not the young officers and rebel soldiers.

"It is the blood of workers and peasants in uniform who are being shed in the battlefield yet it is the hands of the elite generals and politicians that are drenched in the blood of innocents," Ramirez said in a statement.

He said PMP welcomed the exposé by the rebel soldiers about the "heinous treachery and gross corruption in the military and the government."

"There are no better accusers and witnesses than the officers and soldiers who were on the frontlines and who were ordered to execute the perfidy of their military and civilian superiors," he added.

Visayas

Government, business and Church leaders in the Visayas condemned the mutiny and called on the people to declare their support for the Macapagal administration.

Roberto Montelibano, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce for Visayas and president of the Council of Visayan Chambers that covers Central, Western and Eastern Visayas regions, said the businessmen of the Visayas condemn the mutiny because of its far reaching negative effect on the economy.

"All of this bad publicity for the Philippines will scare off potential investors," he said, noting that the mutineers were in the heart of Makati, the country's business center.

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pres. Carlos Co shared Montelibano's sentiment.

He said the businessmen in Cebu were readying a resolution expressing their support and confidence to the President.

But Co said they would also urge the President to investigate the soldiers' grievances.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas described the mutiny as "unfortunate" because it happened when "things (were) growing better."

Iloilo, like the rest of the country, would suffer from the ill effects of the coup on the economy, he lamented.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra directed the calling for prayers at all masses yesterday for a peaceful resolution to the situation.

He also called for prayers for the president and the country, stressing that the coup try will only hurt the poor more with its effects on the economy.

Msgr. Bernardo Pantin, Vicar General of the Palo, Leyte Diocese, described the action of the mutineers as "immoral," and shared the concerns of business and government leaders in the Visayas that the rebellion had further hurt the country's economy.

In Tacloban City, public jitters over the mutiny was heightened when power supply was suddenly interrupted.

Thousands of residents in the city who were monitoring the unfolding event in Makati became alarmed when power outages hit the entire areas being service by the Leyte II Electric Cooperative (Leyeco II) based in this city shortly before noon yesterday.

Vice Gov. Nestor Villasin immediately proceeded to the Leyeco office within minutes after power interruptions hit the towns of Palo, Tanauan, Babatngon, all of Leyte and this city, early morning. Leyeco II services around 25,000 households in these areas.

He told a member of the power co-op's engineering crew to restore power immediately to calm down the people and for them to see and hear any development related to the mutiny.

Power was restored in many areas shortly before 3 p.m. The power interruptions were due to maintenance repairs undertaken by the power utility.

Tightened security

In Bacolod City, police and military rallied behind the President by tightening security at airports and seaports against possible hijacks of planes and ships by those who may have plans of joining the mutineers in Manila.

Ilonggo Senate President Franklin Drilon said the military and police in Western Visayas have assured him they were standing by the Constitution, were fully behind the Macapagal administration and will follow the chain of command.

"We should stay calm, vigilant, and defend our democratic Constitution," Drilon said.

"I am worried not about the stability of this country, I am worried about the debilitating effect (of the mutiny) on our economy. The well-to-do and the rich can overcome these economic adversities but the poor will be the hardest hit," he said.

Business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, who spoke before the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel Saturday night, said "the country is already suffering, let us not make it suffer some more" with a coup attempt.

Sen. John Osmeña, who was also at the PCL affair Saturday night, said he hoped a coup would not succeed.

Elections

"We are only months away from elections and you know if anybody is unhappy with GMA, then let us wait for the election and let us choose our President in a democratic way. Let us not stir up and bring up more trouble in this country, we have enough trouble—that is my plea to the junior officers who are very unhappy," he said.

Osmeña said he did not blame the junior officers and if he were the President he would kick Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes out without batting an eyelash.

The President should address the grievances of the young officers, he said.

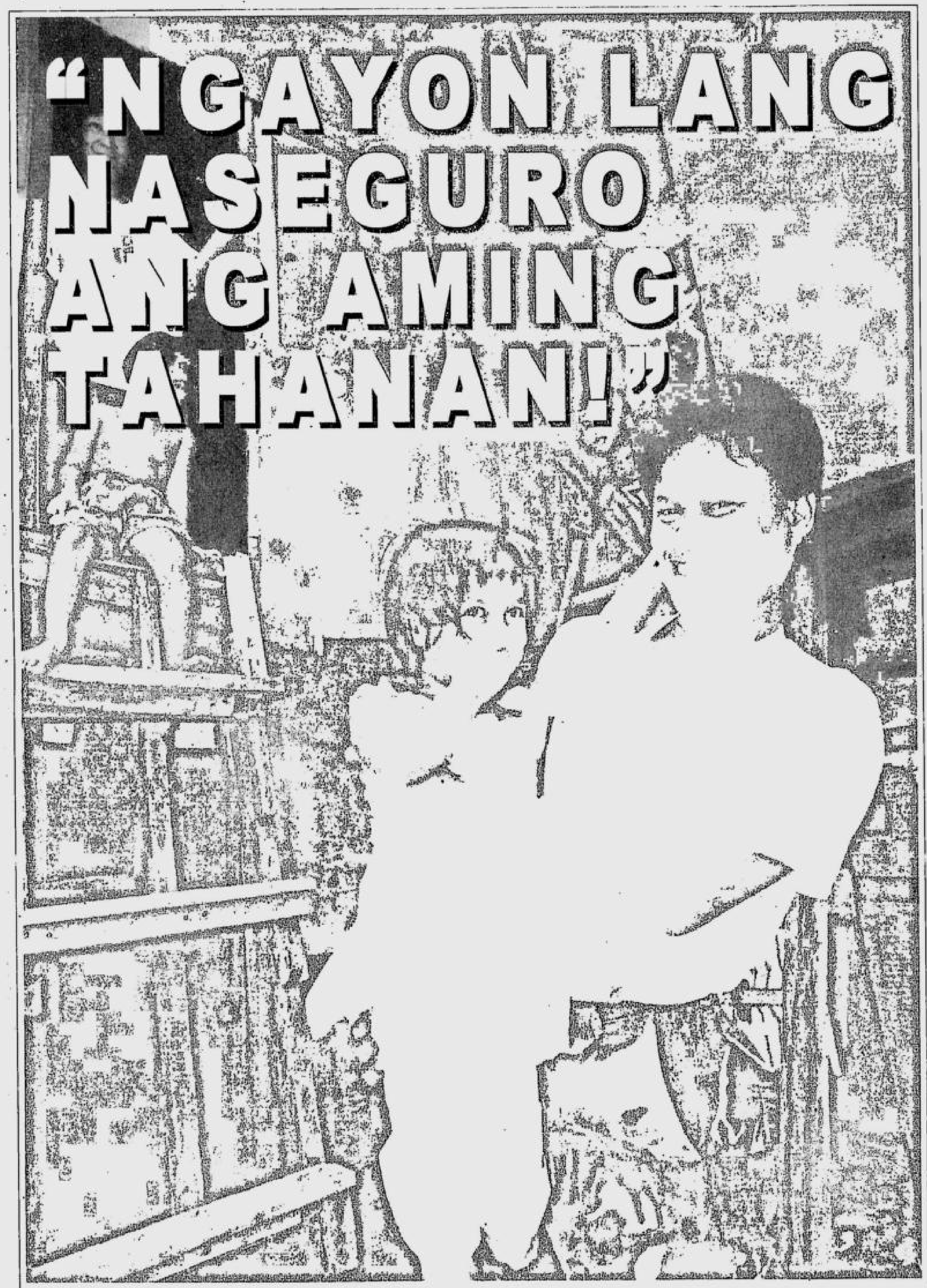
Governors Pablo Garcia of Cebu, Niel Tupas of Iloilo, Joseph Maranon of Negros Occidental and Erico Aumentado of Bohol all made themselves visible yesterday to assure the public that the government remained in control.

Garcia called on the public to continue their usual activities, saying he was confident the mutiny would never succeed. He said what he feared was the effect of this on tourism and the economy.

Aumentado, who also chairs the Central Visayas RDC, said he has mobilized the mayors of Bohol to rally behind the civilian government.

In Iloilo City, urban poor associations and civil society groups in the city said they would stage a "pro-democracy" rally today although they cannot agree to support President Macapagal.

Reports from Allan Macatuno, Jun Malig, Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque, Russell Arador, Ronaldo Dizon, Cesar Villa and Carmela Reyes, Central Luzon Desk and Leoncio Balbin Jr., Cristina Arzadon, Estanislao Caldez and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Romulo Ponte, Mei Magsino, Marlon Ramos, Ronnie Lorejo, Emir Gamis, Gil Francis Arevalo and Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Ma. Diosa Labiste, Joey Gabieta, Jhunnex Napallacan and Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau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Guingona: Injustice drives people to rebellion

SAN PABLO CITY—Poverty and perceived injustice are the very reasons people are driven to desperation and join the armed rebellion.

This was a message imparted by Vice President Teofisto Guingona when he addressed a multisectoral group that convened Friday for the regional congress and sectoral consultation of the political alliance Bagong Bandila at St. Peter College Seminary.

Guingona said, it is not ideology, cultural differences or religious conflicts that drive people to join the New People's Army or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels but the extreme poverty among the people in the countryside and the perceived injustice they are subjected to.

When these two problems are resolved, "we can easily foster peace," he told the congress that was attended by church groups, college seminarians, students, fishermen, farmers and civil society groups.

He proposed that religious leaders monitor the peace and even the proposals that now are being exchanged because "with peace we can plant, we can grow, we can build, we can manufacture. With peace we can have real development," said Guingona.

Guingona said he opposed the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) because they are exacerbating poverty in the country.

He also underscored opposition to Charter change because it seeks among others, the deletion of the "national patrimony" provision in the Philippine Constitution, which protects the Filipino people's inalienable rights to their own land "that is ours, that is for the good of the Filipinos."

If the national patrimony provisions are removed, the foreigners could then be allowed to "buy and own our lands, and develop their own economies (at our expense), exploit the water and the mineral resources underneath the sea, the gas, the petroleum, the oil, and all these would no longer belong to the Filipinos but the aliens," Guingona stressed.

Bagong Bandila is an alliance of liberal democrats, Christian democrats and democratic socialists or social democrats and other democratic forces. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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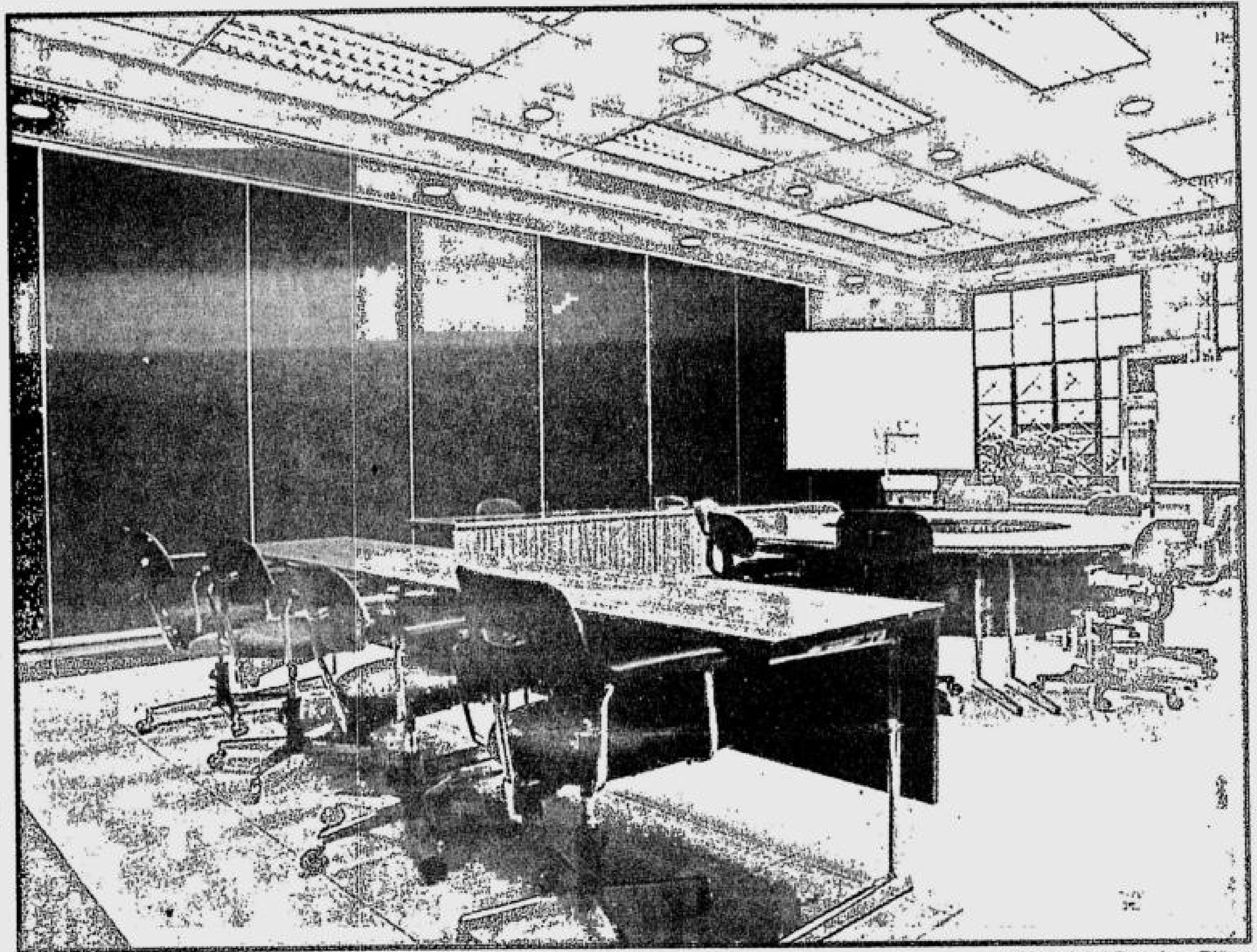

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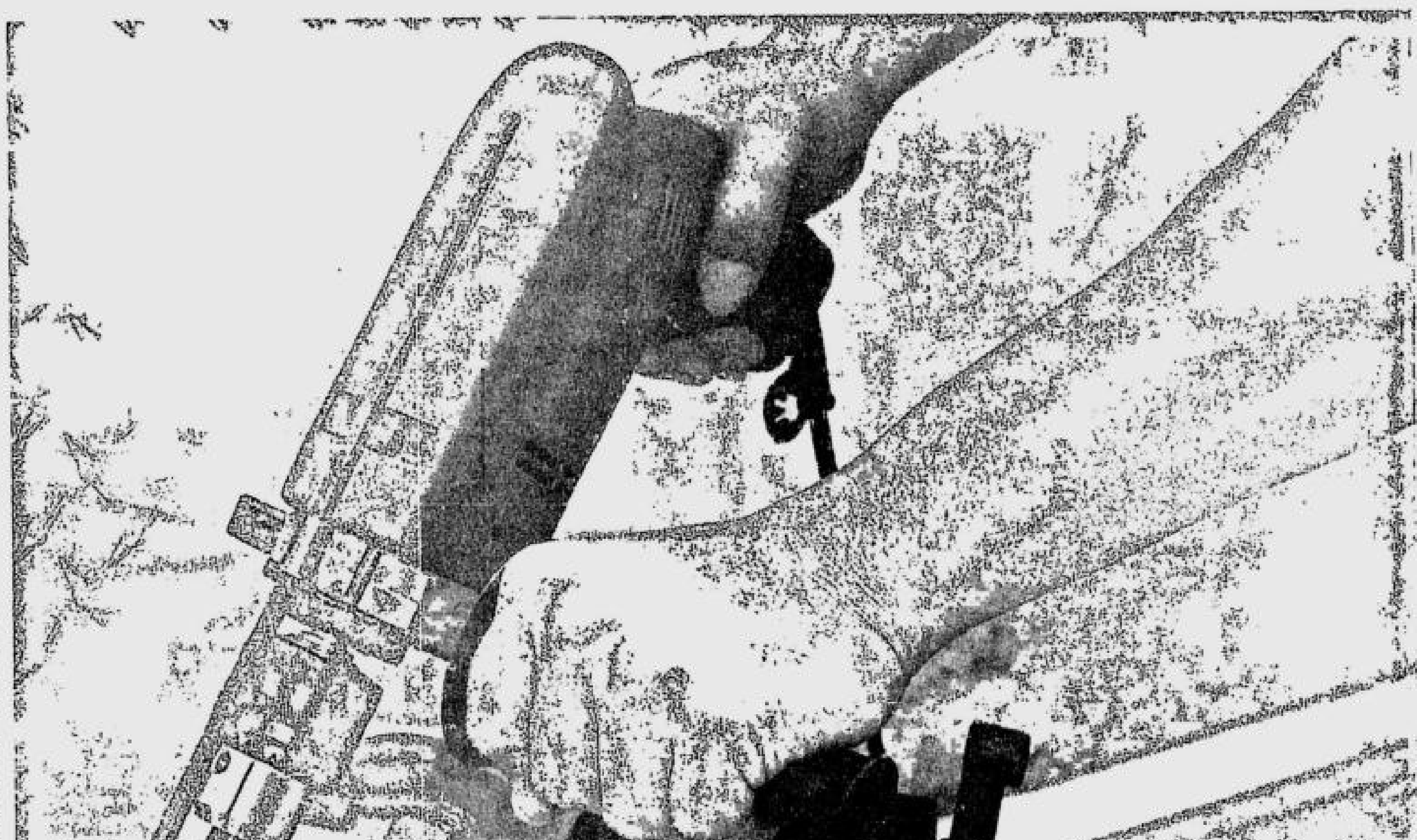

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Crisis over in Makati, GMA declares

From page A1

state of rebellion has been lifted, Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said. He said the President slept for less than 2 hours during the 23-hour siege.

As part of the agreement, Abaya said the five core mutineers would face the full consequence of what they had done. He identified the five as Navy Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, and Captains Gerardo Gambala, Milo Maestrecampo and (no first name given) Alejandro.

The rebels did not set any conditions for their surrender, but expected that their complaints, including the alleged sale of firearms by the defense department to rebel groups, would be addressed, said Col. Danilo Lim, commander of the 1st Scout Rangers Regiment and member of the negotiating panel.

Abaya said the mutineers had made several demands, including the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. A committee has been formed to review and implement reforms in the military.

The President said civilians involved in the conspiracy would also be prosecuted. Abaya did not identify them, but he said the building they found was clearly used as staging area for the coup attempt.

Abaya said that at about 4 p.m., some of the rebel forces got out of Oakwood—first batch of 17 and second batch pf 20 to 30—"with most of them changing to civilian clothes so they were not accounted for."

Trillanes' mother Estelita convinced the President to extend the 5 p.m. deadline for surrender of the mutineers by two hours to 7 p.m. yesterday.

But the second deadline passed without her son and most of his men filing out of the twin towers of Oakwood, the centerpiece of the 36-hectare Ayala Center in Makati.

Hours before the first deadline lapsed, more than 50 of the soldiers surrendered to government troops after the President ordered the military and the police to suppress the mutineers "immediately."

A third deadline was set, this time indefinitely, with Ambassador Roy Cimatu, former Armed Forces chief of staff, acting as the principal government negotiator.

Housing chief Mike Defensor, along with military officials and Senators Gringo Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and Vicente Sotto III, had also been authorized by the government to negotiate.

The renegade soldiers, who belong to the elite fighting forces of the Army, Navy and Air Force, had participated in about four training exercises under the joint Philippine-US Flash Piston exercises in Subic, Zambales, and Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Estelita was accompanied by former President Fidel V. Ramos and classmates of her late husband Antonio from the Philippine Military Academy Class '59 in seeking an extension of the deadline.

"I was able to talk to him (Antonio) on the cell phone and he told me to leave the place (Oakwood) because they were having negotiations (with government emissaries)," said Estelita, who was seated beside Ms Macapagal at a briefing in the Malacañang Palace Guest House at 5:30 p.m.

Estelita said she could only help "within her capacity as a mother" because "they have a different way of negotiating."

She said she would not intervene in his son's affairs beyond asking the President to extend the deadline.

The President said: "It's a good thing that you (Ramos) are here now because Mrs. Trillanes' husband was with you."

Ramos said the late Trillanes was his student in the Special Forces Group Airborne Division. "I hope Sonny give importance to the service rendered by his father," he said, referring to the young Trillanes' nickname.

The standoff began soon after Ms Macapagal ordered the arrest of junior officers who abandoned their posts with their weapons and were believed to be plotting a coup.

"There is absolutely no justification for the actions you have taken," the President told the rogue soldiers in a nationally televised address. "You have already stained the uniform. Do not drench it with dishonor. Your actions are already hovering at the fringes of outright terrorism."

State of rebellion

The President issued a "state of rebellion," which gives authorities power to carry out arrests without warrants. She told the military and the police to "immediately carry out the necessary actions and measures to suppress and quell the rebellion with due regard to constitutional rights."

Shortly before Ms Macapagal announced a state of rebellion, the 15th Strike Wing based in Sangley Air Base in Cavite City was ordered to load rockets for MG-520 attack helicopters and were deployed shortly before 5 p.m. As of yesterday afternoon, four MG-520 helicopters were flying around the vicinity of Oakwood.

Unlike the "people power" revolts that peacefully ousted two presidents in 1986 and 2001, there appeared to be little public support for the mutiny. The military chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya declared loyalty to the Philippine president.

At 3 a.m., renegade troops in camouflage uniforms set up gun posts and rigged explosives around Makati's Glorietta complex, which includes one of the country's largest shopping malls. The military responded by sending Marines to positions nearby.

"We are not attempting to grab power. We are just trying to express our grievances," Trillanes told reporters on the scene.

He said the explosives were for self-defense. "If they try to take us down, we will be forced to use it," he said.

Red armbands

Trillanes claimed to have the support of 2,000 officers and soldiers. About 200 men were involved in the occupation of Oakwood. They were armed with rifles and wore red armbands with a symbol of sun rays.

Rumors of a coup plot had been spreading for the last week *(See chronology in front page)*.

Ms Macapagal took action Saturday, announcing that she had ordered the military and police to hunt down and "arrest a small band of rogue junior officers and soldiers who have deserted their post and illegally brought weapons with them."

The officers responded in a video released just before the takeover, accusing the government of selling arms and ammunition to Moro and communist rebels, staging deadly bombings to justify more aid from the United States, and preparing to declare martial law to stay in power. *(See story on page A1)*

Cory on TV

Ms Aquino went on television yesterday to urge citizens to pray for Ms Macapagal. "Let us remember that this democracy is not only our right but also our responsibility," Ms Aquino said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina ordered the arrest of Honasan, citing an intelligence report reportedly linking the former army colonel to the mutiny. Honasan, who has been accused of involvement in past coup plots, denied he had any "influence or control" over the mall takeover. *(See story on Page A2)*

Members of the Guardians Brotherhood, numbering at least 100, joined the junior military officers who took over Oakwood before dawn, according to Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff.

Asked which Guardians' faction joined the mutineers, Garcia said: "Honasan's faction." The Guardians is an association of active and retired military and police officers and civilians. Honasan's faction reportedly has the largest number.

Court martial

Abaya guaranteed the safety of mutinous soldiers if they surrendered but said they would be subjected to court martial proceedings.

The President had said the government would exact the maximum penalty for the mutineers. "They have broken the law. They will be court-martialed."

From 12:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., some 30 members of the PMA Class '95 talked with the plotters and tried to convince them to surrender.

Only Captain Gambala, the class president, together with Captains Albert Baloloy and Maestrecampo, met with their "mistahs" (classmates). Trillanes was not present at the meeting.

'Someone behind'

"We told them we agree with them but not with your means," one mistah told the INQUIRER. "*Matigas talaga sila*. They have one major demand that is to change the system," another officer said. "The way they act I think they are really willing to die," he added.

A class member present during the meeting told the INQUIRER that some 15 minutes after they started talking with Gambala, his mobile phone rang. He was overheard whispering "Sir! Yes Sir!"

"We really believe our class is not the one orchestrating this. There is someone behind this thing. We just don't know who but we know there are senior officials involved here. The leader is very smart, he still hasn't come out," he said.

Magdalo

The mutineers got the Magdalo tag from the *nom de guerre* chosen by the First Philippine Republic president, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, when he joined the revolutionary secret society Katipunan in March 1895.

CRISIS/ A22

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Office 2000 (Win2000, Word Excel, PowerPoint) P6,400/48hrs	1:30-4:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-W Sat	Aug25-Sep18 Sep01-Oct07 Sep06-Oct11
Open Office P5,000/45hrs	1:30-4:30	M-F	Aug25-Sep12
Program Logic Formulation P2,400/30hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat	Aug25-Sep09 Sep15-Sep30 Aug25-Sep09 Sep15-Sep30 Aug29-Sep19 Aug23-Sep20
Enhanced Web Page Designing in HTML & JavaScript P5,500/36hrs	1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00	TThF M-Th	Sep09-Oct03 Sep08-Sep25
DreamWeaver P5,500/30hrs	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Sat Sat	Aug23-Sep13 Sep20-Oct11
Web Animations Using Flash P4,800/24hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug25-Sep04 Sep08-Sep18 Aug25-Sep04 Sep08-Sep18 Sep20-Oct4
Macromedia Flash ActionScript P4,800/24hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Sep22-Oct02 Sep22-Oct02 Aug23-Sep06
Visual Basic .Net Fundamentals P7,500/45hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Aug04-Aug27 Sep08-Oct01 Aug04-Aug27 Sep08-Oct01 Aug16-Sep20 Aug24-Sep28
MS Access P3,500/30hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Aug25-Sep09 Aug23-Sep13
Programming in C++ P4,000/36hrs	1:30-4:30 3:30-8:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat Sun	Aug25-Sep11 Aug23-Oct11 Aug24-Sep21
JAVA Programming Fundamentals P6,500/36hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug25-Sep11 Sep22-Oct09 Aug25-Sep11 Sep22-Oct09 Sep20-Oct25
Developing Applications in JAVA P6,500/30hrs	1:30-4:30 3:30-8:30	MWF Sat	Aug25-Sep15 Sep20-Oct25
Network Technology P6,000/45hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug04-Aug27 Aug04-Aug27 Aug04-Aug27 Sep06-Oct11
Administering Windows Networks P8,000/54hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 9:00-5:00 9:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Aug11-Sep09 Sep15-Oct14 Aug11-Sep09 Sep15-Oct14 Sep06-Oct25 Sep07-Oct26
Network Infrastructure P8,000/48hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00	M-Th M-Th	Sep08-Oct07 Sep01-Sep30
Linux System Administration (Linux +) P5,000/45hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 1:30-4:30 9:00-5:00	M-F M-F M-F M-F Sat	Aug25-Sep12 Sep15-Oct03 Aug26-Sep12 Sep15-Oct03 Aug23-Sep27
Linux+ (Blended Learning) P4,600/60hrs	5:30-9:30 5:30-9:30	M-F M-F	Aug26-Sep12 Sep15-Oct03
Linux Network Administration P5,000/30hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	T-Th Sun	Aug26-Sep16 Aug24-Sep14
LINUX Internet Caching Servers (SQUID) P2,000/8hrs	6:30-9:30 6:30-9:30	T & W T & W	Sep23-Sep24 Sep30-Oct01
Introduction to Oracle 9i SQL P8,500/60hrs	8:30-12:30 8:30-12:30 8:30-12:30 1:30-5:30	M-Th M-Th M-Th MTThF	Aug04-Aug27 Sep01-Sep24 Sep29-Oct22 Sep22-Oct16
Oracle9i Database Admin. Fundamentals P10,000/60hrs	9:00-4:00	Sun	Aug10-Oct12
CISCO 1 Fast Track P3,500/30hrs	5:30-8:30	M & F	Sep15-Oct17
CISCO 2 P6,000.00/70hrs	6:30-9:30 3:30-8:30	T-Th Sat	Sep30-Nov06 Sep06-Nov08

ELECTRONICS

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Basic Electronics P3,900/36hrs	1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 6:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug18-Sep01 Sep8-Sep22 Aug18-Sep04 Sep08-Sep25 Aug23-Sep20
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,300/36hrs	1:00-5:00 1:00-5:00 5:30-9:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat	Aug18-Sep01 Sep08-Sep22 Aug18-Sep03 Sep08-Sep24 Aug22-Sep19 Aug23-Sep20
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/36hrs	8:30-12:00 8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 1:30-5:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Aug18-Sep01 Sep08-Sep22 Aug18-Sep01 Sep08-Sep22 Sep08Sep23 Aug23-Sep20
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	5:30-9:00 8:00-6:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th Fri Sat	Aug26-Sep08 Aug22-Sep19 Aug23-Sep20
TV& Monitor Servicing P3,900/36hrs	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep02 Sep08-Sep23 Aug23-Sep20
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P4,800/27hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug18-Aug28 Aug23-Sep13
Home Video Editing P3,300/16hrs	8:00-12:00 8:00-12:00	M-Th Sat	Sep15-Sep18 Aug30-Sep20
Applied Telephony P3,900/36hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Sep08-Sep23

AUTOMOTIVE/REF'C AIR-CON

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Basic Driving Course P6,000/15hrs	1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep12 Aug23-Sep14
Auto Engine Electrical P3,000/42hrs	1:00-5:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep04 Aug18-Sep04 Aug30-Sep20
Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep11 Aug18-Sep08 Aug23-Sep27
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	8:00-12:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep12 Aug18-Sep12 Oct04-Nov29
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep12 Oct04-Nov29
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-6:00	MWF MWF	Aug18-Sep08 Aug18-Sep08
Underchassis Mechanic P3,900/60hrs	1:00-5:00	M-F	Aug18-Sep12
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/48hrs	2:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Aug18-Sep11 Aug23-Sep27
Refrigeration & Air conditioning Mechanic P4,500/60hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-5:00 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Sep08-Oct09 Sep08-Oct09 Aug25-Sep26 Sep27-Nov15
CISCO 3 P6,000.00/70hrs	1:00-4:00	M-Th	Sep01-Oct02
CISCO 4 P6,000/70hrs	8:00-5:00	Sun	Aug31-Oct26

ELECTRICAL

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Industrial Electrician P4,500/66hrs	8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 6:30-9:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th	Sep01-Oct01 Sep01-Oct01 Sep01-Oct01
Building Wiring Installation & Maintenance P4,500/60hrs	1:30-5:00 6:30-9:00	M-Th M-Th	Sep01-Sep30 Sep01-Sep30
Adv. Industrial Motor Controls P4,500/60hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sun	Sep01-Sep30 Sep21-Nov09
AutoCAD P4,600/72hrs	8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 5:30-9:00	MTThF M-Th M-Th	Sep01-Oct03 Sep01-Oct01 Sep01-Oct03
Electrical Control Wiring Installer & Troubleshooter P4,500/48hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Sep01-Sep25 Sep06-Oct11

INSTRUMENTATION

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Pneumatic Industrial Controls P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug18-Sep05
Electro-Pneumatics P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Sep08-Sep26 Aug16-Sep20
Basic PLC P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep05 Sep08-Sep26 Aug16-Sep20
Calibration For Process Instrumentation P4,200/36hrs	5:30-8:30 9:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep05 Aug16-Sep20
Industrial Process Controls P4,200/36hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Sep08-Sep26
Process Automation Course P7,500/72hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug18-Sep26
Machine Automation Course P10,800/126hrs	5:30-8:30	M-F	Aug18-Oct17

MECHANICAL

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Lathe Machine Operation P5,000/40hrs	5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Aug18-Sep02 Aug30-Sep27
Milling Machine Operation P5,000/40hrs	5:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Aug18-Sep02 Aug30-Sep27
Basic CAD/CAM P3,500/40hrs	8:00-5:00	Sat	Aug16-Sep13
Gas Welding P3,500/40hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Aug18-Sep03 Aug30-Sep27
CNC Milling Programming P3,500/40hrs	8:00-5:00	SAT	Aug16-Sep13

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Course	Time	Days	Dates
Enhancing Communication Skills P3,000/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Aug23-Sep06
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,000/21hrs	9:00-5:00	Sat	Aug23-Sep06

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED NETWORTH BANK OF LA UNION

1. Starting July 29, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Networth Bank of La Union (NBLU) Head Office and Branch.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank on the following dates, to file claims for insured deposits:

NBLU Office/Branch	Address	Servicing Dates
Head Office	Brgy. Lomboy, Sto. Tomas La Union	July 29 to August 05, 2003
Pozorrubio	Pozorrubio Public Market, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan	July 29 to August 12, 2003

PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

After the said dates, all depositors can file.their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
b. Latest identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing,of claims for insured deposits in the closed Networth Bank of La Union is on **December 18, 2004**. After **December 18, 2004**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–July 26 & 28, 2003)

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PMA Marilag Class 'ever idealistic'

From page A1

It was the first class "to be exposed to real changes," said a former cadet, who was discharged before he could graduate on March 5, 1995.

"This was always an idealistic class. One of my mistahs prepared a thesis on corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Another wrote a similar essay on military corruption when we were still plebes (freshmen)," he said.

"Their idealism was the sign of the times. Most of the classes in the 1990s were idealistic. And, no, this was not the influence of [former Sen. Gregorio Honasan]. Remember that after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, the soldiers suddenly realized their value in society."

Honasan led members of the PMA classes of 1971 and 1972 against the strongman Ferdinand Marcos in the 1986 Edsa Revolution that installed Corazon Aquino, widow of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., as President. The military officer later led a series of coup attempts in 1987 and 1989 against Ms Aquino.

Among the members of the Marilag Class are Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, Capt. Laurence Louis Somera, Ltsg. James Layug, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo and Capt. Albert Baloloy.

Malacañang identified them as rogue junior officers, who barricaded themselves on Sunday dawn at the Makati shopping area, which they mined with explosives.

Mutineers identified

Other PMA graduates who were identified as among the mutineers were First Lieutenants Jose Enrico Demetrio Dingle [1996]; Lawrence San Juan and Warren Lee Dagupon [1997]; and Florentino Somera Jr. [1999].

Six members of the Masinag Class of 1998 also joined the mutineers.

"We have contacts with them and are still asking them about their reasons why they joined the group," First Lt. Ben Domingo III, class president, said.

"They told us that it was because of their principles," said Domingo, aide-de-camp of Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commanding general of the 5th Infantry Division based in Camp Mechor de la Cruz in Gamu, Isabela.

The Marilag Class is a renegade group that trusts Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya.

Abaya was their commandant of cadets, when members of the class pursued their grueling fourth-class and third-class training, said Adam Borja, a class member who was discharged after suffering "hazing" wounds.

Aguinaldo name

The mutineers got the Magdalo tag from the *nom de guerre* chosen by the First Philippine Republic president, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, when he joined the revolutionary secret society Katipunan in March 1895.

The Magdalo was also the name of one of two Katipunan councils that administered Cavite after the successes achieved by the revolutionary forces that resulted in the expulsion of Spanish forces from Cavite. The other council was the Magdiwang headed by Mariano Alvarez and his son Santiago.

Aguinaldo joined the Katipunan on the invitation of Santiago Alvarez, his boyhood friend. The general took Magdalo for his Katipunan name after St. Mary Magdalene, the patroness of Kawit, his hometown.

The same Magdalo faction figured prominently in the feud with the Magdiwang on the Filipino Republic leadership that led to the execution of Katipunan Supremo Andres Bonifacio and his brother Procopio on May 10, 1897 in Maragondon, Cavite. *With reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Rolando Fernandez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Why they took over Oakwood

From page A1

tions where another leader of the group made similar accusations.

Trillanes said the top echelon of the Armed Forces of the Philippines continued to supply the Abu Sayyaf, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army with bullets, the same ones that were killing their fellow soldiers in the field.

He said this was confirmed by various experiences of junior field commanders who found government bullets in the lairs of the rebels.

Trillanes also accused Reyes and Corpus of masterminding the Davao bombings. He said these were timed before the President's US state visit so that she could win financial support from the Americans.

He then accused the Macapagal administration of planning to extend its stay in power through martial rule.

Bombing campaign

He said the administration planned to detonate bombs in different places in the capital to legitimize martial law.

"We have received information that the government, out of an act of desperation, will declare martial law which would be triggered by simultaneous explosions in Metro Manila," Trillanes said.

"Do we want to wait for that to happen? The final validation was Al-Ghozi's escape. We are being led by the nose. Let's end this deception," he added.

Trillanes said the group tried to air their complaints when they met with the President recently, but nothing came of it.

In Camp Aguinaldo, military officials dismissed the mutineers' allegations as "pure lies."

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said the military establishment would never sell arms and ammunition to the enemies of the state.

"They could have been fed false information; the government will never give over arms to the enemy because our soldiers will be directly affected by this," he said in a briefing early yesterday.

Garcia also dismissed as a "big lie" the officers' allegations that the military perpetrated the bomb attacks in Davao in March and April, which left dozens of civilians dead.

"The military merely responds to such attacks; it will never sow mayhem in Mindanao. Only those who wanted to sow terror there were capable of doing that," he told reporters.

Garcia further said the officers' allegation that the government was planning to declare martial law in August was "farthest from the truth."

"There is no reason to declare martial law; we have not received any information that the government has such plans. They are just making an issue out of this," he said.

Investigating body

Reyes expressed willingness to face a probe over the junior officers' allegations. He announced last night that he had recommended to the President the creation of a "high and independent investigating commission" to look into them.

"I submit myself to this high-level investigating commission to be created by the President to prove to everybody that all these accusations are false," he said in a press briefing at the AFP Grandstand.

To avoid any possible whitewash in the investigation, Reyes said he also proposed to the President the inclusion of a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1995, to which many of the leaders of the mutinous soldiers belong, in the commission.

At least five congressmen have also proposed an independent probe to investigate the mutineers' claims.

The latest military adventure to rock the country is like a repeat of the coup attempts that plagued the country for a decade—complete with the occupation of the same Ayala Center.

Once again, young officers, insisting they only wanted reforms, had taken arms against the government of a female President, accusing the administration of corruption and colluding with insurgent groups.

This time, a group of over 200 rebels were demanding that the Macapagal administration be replaced with a "National Recovery Program"—the platform of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, the former Army colonel who led most of the bloody coup attempts in the 1980s.

'National Recovery Program'

Rebel soldiers openly distributed copies of the program with Honasan's name on it to journalists. The program has vague statements on fighting crime, corruption and terrorism, cleaning up the judiciary and reviewing the country's trade commitments.

Trillanes said his group was not supporting Honasan, but he explained that the former military rebel's program of government was the only viable plan that could take the country out of its current political and economic crisis.

Among other things, the plan calls for the reform of the judiciary, the bureaus of custom and internal revenue, and the Philippine National Police.

Notably, the NRP proposes the retirement of all officials from the rank of brigadier general/commodore/chief superintendent and above.

Not terrorists

The junior officers held a press briefing in mid-afternoon.

"We are not terrorists. What we are speaking is the truth and we are willing to die for what we are fighting for," Capt. Gerardo Gambala declared in Filipino.

"In the name of the brave soldiers who are here with me right now, we want to say to the Filipino people that we are not terrorists. We are soldiers who want to speak the truth."

"We want to open the eyes of everyone to what is happening to our country. We want to say our concerns to our leaders," Gambala added.

Capt. Milo Maestrecampo also stood up to say that economics, poverty and "greed for resources" were the reasons for the problems of the country.

"Is there meaning to the deaths of soldiers in the battlefield in the past? None. I will not stop until I see that they had not died in vain," Maestrecampo said.

He also took a swipe at the leadership of the Armed Forces, saying ordinary foot soldiers had to make do with rundown combat boots and no shelter from the elements while operating in the jungles.

This contrasted with the lifestyle of the generals, Maestrecampo said.

"To the soldiers outside, we want to say that what we are fighting for is for you, too. What we are fighting for is for everyone. We have decided to make a stand. This is what we believe in and we are laying our lives on the line for this. What about you? Where do you stand? You are just following orders." *With reports from Carlito Pablo, AFP*

EDWIN BACASMAS

MOTHER knows best: With Trillanes' mother Estrelita by her side and former President Ramos who knew his late father, President Macapagal appears assured of a win-win situation in the 19-hour crisis in Makati.

TRILLANES meets journalists for the first time at 3 a.m. Sunday at the Oakwood parking lot.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Trillanes: Brilliant . . .

From page A1

TV interview last night after the mutiny ended that he would likely quit the military, and probably go into teaching.

Instructors at the Philippine Military Academy remembered Trillanes as a brilliant student, when he was studying in Fort del Pilar a decade ago.

Most of the academy instructors the INQUIRER interviewed on Sunday remembered him because he stood out by speaking his mind.

"Like [Marilag], which was a pretty outstanding class [in the PMA], Trillanes was very brilliant. He once asked an art instructor: 'How do you know abstract art has a plan?' The instructor never forgot that. Trillanes was very inquisitive," an instructor said on condition of anonymity.

Trillanes graduated magna cum laude.

His older brother Jay said Trillanes—Sonny to his relatives—was a junior electronics and communications engineering student at the De La Salle University when he secretly joined the PMA.

"He never told us he was joining the PMA, although he had already shown interests in the military when he was younger," Jay told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Turning in grave

Jay said his brother was heavily influenced by their father, Antonio Trillanes Sr., who was also a military officer. Their mother's father was also a ship captain.

But Jay said their father may now be turning in his grave because of Sonny's decision to go against the government.

"If only our father were alive, he would be the first one to oppose [Sonny's] decision," he added.

Jay said their family's feeling about Sonny's decision was a mixture of pride, disappointment and fear. He said that had they known of Sonny's plans, they would have been strongly against it.

But Sonny kept his family in the dark about his plans.

The police superintendent, who requested anonymity, said he first met Trillanes three years ago in Baguio City.

"Back then, I already knew that he was a very good and idealistic young man," the official said. "This explained why he was very much affected by the irregularities he witnessed in the military."

Trillanes documented those "irregularities"—supposedly obtaining primarily in the Navy—in a controversial thesis he submitted for a master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines last year. It was entitled "Corruption in the Philippine Navy Procurement System."

Trillanes married Lt. Arlene Orejana, one of the first seven female cadets to graduate from the PMA in 1997. One of the top graduates of her class, Orejana joined the PMA corps of professors and has since been promoted to captain. She has been stationed there for the last five years with their two children: a 6-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.

Trillanes' wife refused to talk to reporters, but the PMA said their family was "safe inside the academy."

Jay said his brother invited his mother and all his siblings to a dinner last week after the INQUIRER reported that the Navy man's life was under threat.

Jay said Sonny asked his brothers to take care of his wife and two children in case something happened to him, but Jay said Sonny never mentioned he would be staging a mutiny.

"He is a simple man, but very idealistic. He fights for what he believes in," Jay said of his younger brother, who turns 32 on Aug. 6.

"We are hoping for the best," Jay said. "He has sacrificed his career and his family, but we are still here to support him." *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Boxing champ steals show for 3 rounds

From page A1

spectacular non-coup attempt.

Less than three hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo set the initial 5 p.m. deadline for the rebel soldiers' surrender, many Filipinos—ordinary citizens, soldiers and policemen otherwise focused on the events at the Oakwood Premier apartment complex—reached for their TV clickers to catch Pacquiao's title match with Mexican challenger Emmanuel Lucero.

"Of course, we are concerned (about the Makati mutiny)," said Army Capt. Roderick Balbanero, "but this (Paquiao-Lucero bout) is more fun to watch."

Balbanero and his fellow soldiers at the Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio had been glued to their television sets since early morning.

Another soldier agreed: "The deadline is four hours away; we might as well enjoy this fight. This is a nice distraction."

A high-ranking Caloocan City police official could not help interrupting a serious interview on the ongoing frenzy with remarks on the Filipino boxer's unorthodox fighting style. "*Magaling talaga si* Pacquiao (Pacquiao's really great)," the official said after explaining why he did not sympathize with the rebels.

Even before the game, the Northern Police District had been abuzz with discussions on the chances of the fiery boxer from General Santos City of retaining his crown.

Analyses of the bombs that the rebels had planted in Ayala Center were interspersed with emphatic predictions—no bets, since all were in favor of the Filipino's win.

They were not disappointed. Pacquiao knocked out the Mexican a few seconds into the third round, or in under 10 minutes.

Whereupon, the cops and soldiers merrily went back on alert, and ordinary citizens switched back to Oakwood Reality TV. *Luige del Puerto and Edson Tandoc Jr.*

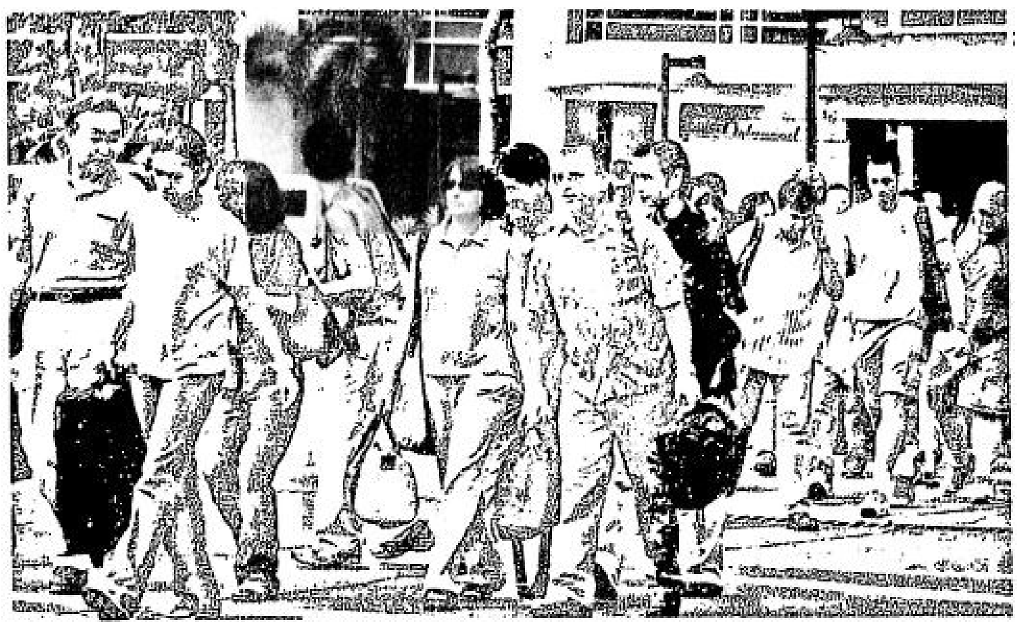
PEACE: At the Edsa shrine, nuns recite the rosary with other believers in the power of prayer. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

REINFORCEMENT: APC tanks enter Camp Aguinaldo early Sunday morning for troop augmentation. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

CHECKED-OUT: Carrying their bags, foreign guests at the Oakwood emerge from the building. JOAN BONDOC

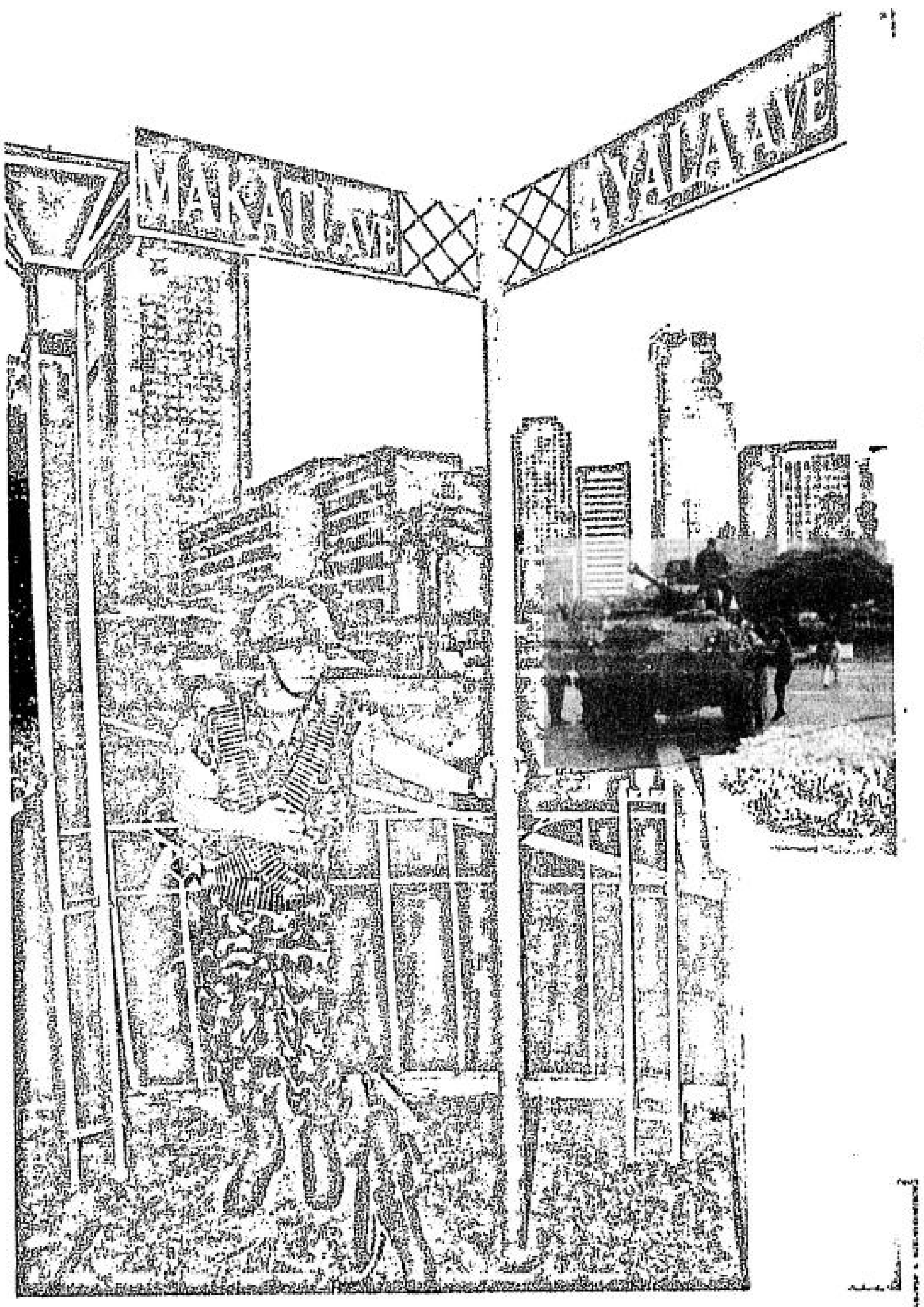
WIRED: Rebel soldiers secure their position by planting bombs around Oakwood. RANDY HORMILLOSA

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Ruth Pearce is escorted out of the apartment complex. JOAN BONDOC

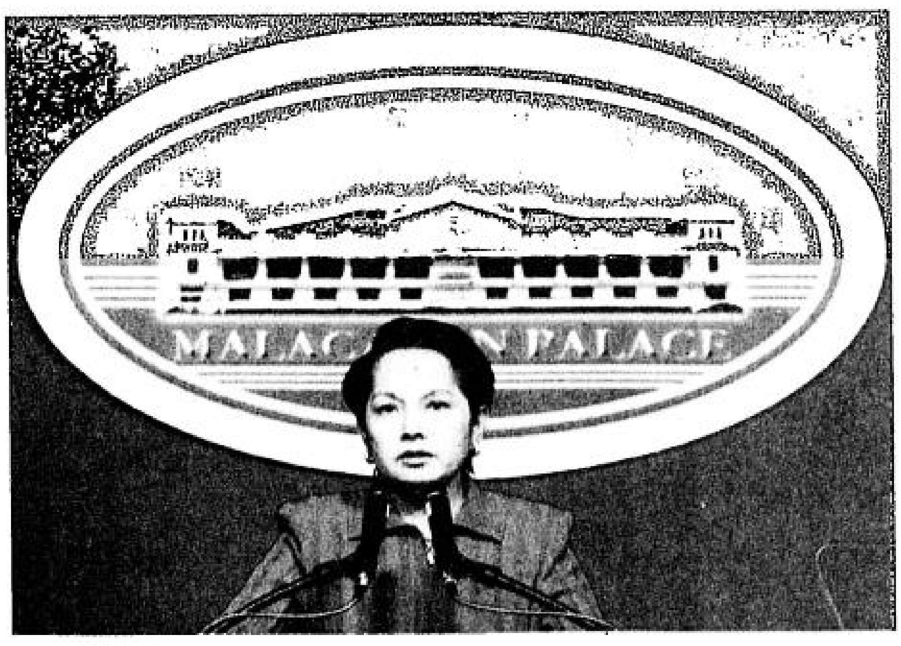


Magdalo mutiny at the mall

BOTH SIDES: Left, a member of the Magdalo group at mid-morning watch. At right, a few buildings away from the center of action, a Philippine Marine awaits orders. ERIK ARAZAS



WORD WITH MOM: The mother of Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes, Magdalo spokesperson, talks to her son by phone en route to Oakwood. EGAY MONTANA



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: President Macapagal-Arroyo says surrender, or suffer "reasonable force." EDWIN BACASMAS

A REBEL surrenders, is presented to media. JOAN BONDOC

ALL THEIRS: A family strolls along Ayala Avenue, deserted for once. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PROTEST: Anti-GMA marchers along Edsa, on their way to the Makati Commercial Center at the height of the siege. BOY CABRIDO

Analysts say economy set back by 1½ years

From page A1

"too soon" to say whether the country's 4.2 to 5.2 percent economic growth target this year would be endangered.

"Much of the the economic growth that we are going to have this year would probably be more domestically oriented growth. I don't think it would affect exports because the orders are already around for the next half," Neri said.

"I don't think this is as serious as the past incidents," he said in a reference to coup attempts.

Other analysts, however, said the mutiny was likely to jolt investor confidence, leaving the country's near-term economic prospects in tatters and sending local stocks and the peso tumbling.

"We shot ourselves in the foot again. We now have to work twice as hard to recover from this," said Joey Bermudez, president of Chinatrust Philippines.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the mutiny would certainly erode investor confidence. "We will have to work triply harder to regain what they (rebel soldiers) wasted away."

Stocks, peso, bonds

Philippine Stock Exchange chair Alicia Arroyo condemned the mutiny, saying it "may likely set our country back by one and a half years."

"This is a catastrophe. How can you now call your foreign client and say buy?" said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc. "This market climbed because of foreign buying. Without foreign buying, this market would drop."

But Roxas voiced hopes that a peaceful and immediate resolution of the mutiny might limit losses. At Friday's close, the Philippine stock market was up 26.06 percent so far this year, largely due to a run-up in early June and early July on foreign buying.

"If they (foreign investors) are not in the market, they won't come in," said Jojo Gonzales, research head at Philippine Equity Partners Inc. "If they're in, they'll have to see whether they should cut their losses."

The country has been enjoying better investor sentiment in recent months after the budget deficit came in within target in the first half of the year, allowing for lower interest rates. Benign inflation has also helped.

"(The) Philippines had just started showing improvement in tax collection. Now investor sentiment will obviously be affected," said Carl Wong, credit analyst at Bank of America.

Fixed income analysts see BB/Ba1-rated Philippine sovereign dollar bonds—which account for about 16 percent of benchmark regional bond indices—weakening by one to two points in early trade on Monday.

A government official who asked not to be named said the peso—already hovering at four-month lows at about 54 to the dollar due to coup rumors—would "obviously suffer as a knee-jerk reaction" to the mutiny.

One foreign businessman said the peso "would drop like a stone" on Monday morning.

Another currency trader said a 75-centavo drop in the peso's value against the US dollar was "not farfetched" while a P55:$1 exchange rate would be "an easy target."

Concepcion

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said rebel soldiers were out to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo when they launched their mutiny in the Makati financial district that was closely monitored by foreign investors.

All the major business groups—Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Federation of Philippine Industries, Philippine Exporters Confederation, and Consumer and Oil Price Watch—issued a common statement denouncing the mutiny while calling for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

"The nation has gone this far in restoring democracy. There is no turning back. Every sector of Philippine society has moved responsibly to defend the ideals of constitutional democracy, and threat to stability must be opposed because it hurts our national interest," said the business organizations in a joint statement.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the influential Bankers' Association of the Philippines, which groups the country's more than 40 commercial banks, has given an assurance that all bank branches would open on Monday, except those in the Glorietta area where the rebels are holding fort.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said the mutiny set back his department's efforts to promote the Philippines as a tourist destination. The rebel soldiers also tarnished the Ayala Center as a premier shopping center and Makati City as the country's commercial and financial center, he added. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Doris C. Dumlao, Clarissa S. Batino, Elena R. Torrijos, Michelle V. Remo, Abigail L. Ho, Jerome Aning, AFP and Reuters*

Rebels highlight fragility of gov't

From page A1

mobs protesting the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada stormed and nearly overran Malacañang.

The attack on Oakwood was not an assault on the seat of state power, but it has more dangerous implications because it was staged by mutinous soldiers. It indicates an undercurrent of restlessness in the military, the main pillar of support of the Macapagal administration, as the nation faces a new presidential election in May 2004 and the prospects of a new political leadership.

It came on the heels of the escape of convicted Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from the custody of the Philippine National Police headquarters, Camp Crame.

The escape was a major embarrassment for the administration as it took place during the visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who came to reinforce Australian and Philippine links in the US-led campaign against terrorism.

The fact that Australian Ambassador Pearce was held briefly before she was released between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. yesterday was another embarrassing blow to the Macapagal administration, undermining its capacity to secure the expatriate community.

Fragile

The mutinous soldiers did not have the numbers to stage a rebellion on the scale of the 1989 coup that nearly toppled the government of then President Corazon Aquino, but their attack has immediate damaging repercussions on international confidence in the Philippines. It also accented the fragility of the Macapagal administration.

Apparently, the new strategy, which did not make a bid to seize centers of state power, was to inflict economic damage, destroy international support for the Macapagal administration, and drive the government into a standoff.

The mutiny did not conceal its goal to topple the Macapagal administration, as rebel leaders, while expressing a list of grievances against the government and the military leadership, headed by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, called initially for Ms Macapagal to step down.

The seizure of Oakwood followed more than a week of coup rumors which rattled the business community and contributed to the fall of the peso against the US dollar. Obviously, the coup rumors and the attack in Makati achieved the objective of undermining further international confidence in the political stability of the country and in the capacity of the economy to stage sustained economic recovery just as signs were emerging that the economy was posting moderate growth.

Valedictory

The mutiny came on the eve of Ms Macapagal's State of the Nation Address (Sona), a valedictory of her troubled presidency, which had been plagued by the May 1, 2002 rebellion and relentless challenges to its legitimacy mounted by partisans of Estrada, who up until now, has refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

The legitimacy of the Macapagal administration was upheld by the Supreme Court after she took office following the collapse of the Estrada administration as a result of the withdrawal of military and national police support for Estrada and the switch of their allegiance to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, in the wake of People Power II.

Unlike the mobs that stormed Malacañang on May 1, 2001, the mutinous soldiers based their action on a list of grievances but did not raise questions of the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

The rebels took their cue from the 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration. The coup damaged the economy so severely as it was posting a six-percent growth rate, the highest since the negative rate during the dying months of the Marcos dictatorship.

The rebel attack failed to stop Ms Macapagal from going ahead with addressing the nation in the joint session of Congress today.

Not declaring a state of rebellion and delivering her last Sona would have betrayed a weak leadership and would have amounted to the abandonment of the President's constitutional duty to render a report to the nation according to the notion of democratic accountability.

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CHAMBER OF HERBAL INDUSTRIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Tagaytay

City Ordinance No. 2003-267

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HON. CITY MAYOR, ATTY. FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO, OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE PARCEL/S OF LAND USED AS ROAD GOING TO BRGY. CALABUSO THRU DONATION, SALE, EXPROPRIATION OR ANY OTHER MEANS

Authored & Sponsored by:

COUN. ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO
Chairman, Committee on
Public Works, Facilities,
Utilities & Land Utilization

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Tagaytay, THAT:

SECTION 1. His honor, the City Mayor of Tagaytay City or his duly authorized representative is hereby authorized to negotiate for the acquisition of parcel/s of land used as road in going to Brgy. Calabuso thru donation, sale, expropriation or any legal means.

SECTION 2. COVERAGE. This Ordinance shall cover the road leading to Barangay Calabuso, commencing from Brgy. Iruhin East to Brgy. Calabuso, this City and all parcels of land affected thereby, including the parcels hereunder identified:

1) Portion of TCT No. P-3663 in the name of Landbank of the Philippines covering 559 sq.m. more or less.
2) Portion of TCT No. T-35522 in the name of Philippine Estates Corporation covering 1,277 sq.m. more or less.
3) Portion of TCT No. P-976 and P-979 in the name of Kin Enterprises Incorporated covering 248 sq.m. more or less.
4) Portion of TCT No. P-1864 and P-1866 in the name of Belle Corporation covering 3,468 sq.m. more or less, disputed by Landbank of the Philippines and Philippine Estates Corporation.

SECTION 3. The aforementioned parcel/s of land shall, upon acquisition, be utilized as permanent public road going to Brgy. Calabuso, Tagaytay City.

SECTION 4. The amount needed thereof is hereby appropriated out of the unappropriated funds available and, existing at the City Treasury, to ensure that the provisions of this Ordinance are carried out in accordance with its goals and objectives.

SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED: July 21, 2003
APPROVED by The City Mayor:
July 24, 2003

ATTESTED BY:

(Sgd.) VIRGILIO T. AMBION
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

APPROVED BY:

(Sgd.) ATTY. FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO
City Mayor

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

ATTY. JOSEPH C. SALUD
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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VISAYAS

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Dumaguete	(035) 225-4759
Iloilo	(033) 320-7488
Tacloban	(053) 321-7611
Tagbilaran	(038) 411-2398

MINDANAO

Butuan	(085) 342-5321
Cagayan De Oro	(088) 857-4272
Davao	(082) 224-0793
Iligan	(063) 221-3713
Zamboanga	(062) 991-2446

Timeline

From page A1

tialed. She also warned "unscrupulous politicians'" not to exploit the situation.

July 27, 1 a.m. The President wraps up meeting with key Cabinet officials in Malacañang.

1 a.m. About 200 rebel soldiers plant powerful bombs in parts of Glorietta in Makati City, storm the mall's basement parking area, and occupy the Oakwood Premier. The rebel soldiers wear red arm bands. Another band of soldiers with red arm bands are spotted trooping out of Fort Bonifacio. Security guards in the Ayala Center are helpless as rebel soldiers in full battle gear seize their service firearms and order them to leave the premises.

Around 3 a.m. The President meets with the AFP top brass and key Cabinet officials. Troops securing Malacañang, particularly the Presidential Security Group, wrap blue bands around their arms.

3:20 a.m. The rebels' "perimeter security" in the Ayala Center is in place, and an officer issues a threat to set off the explosives should government troops attack.

Around 3:30 a.m. Some motorists and late-night shoppers finally realize something unusual is going on. Rebel soldiers direct traffic and keep dumbfounded motorists out of the area. A closed van fails to notice the restrictions, drives straight into the area, and runs over a sign post erected by the rebels. A rebel soldier fires a warning shot.

Around 4:30 am. The rebel officers issue a three-page statement, detailing their accusations against the Macapagal administration.

Sunrise. Tension remains high, with rebels already firmly in place. At least two snipers can be seen atop Oakwood.

Around 8 a.m. Malacañang begins a marathon press briefing aired live on TV, where more than 50 politicians, including senators, congressmen and mayors, take turns expressing support to Ms Macapagal and appealing to the junior officers to lay down their arms. The President's eldest son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, manages a joke. Asked if the First Family was able to sleep, Arroyo said: "We didn't sleep well because my daughter was crying."

9 a.m. The President issues her second statement, giving the mutinous soldiers up to 5 p.m. on Sunday to surrender or be removed by force.

Around 9:40 a.m. Deposed President Joseph Estrada is transferred from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center—a precautionary measure, the Palace explained some two hours later.

10 a.m. Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes, the leader of the renegade soldiers, says they are not negotiating with the government. He tells ABS-CBN in a phone interview from Oakwood the rebel officers do not expect to get a "proper forum" when "the President and the AFP leadership" are the object of their complaint.

1 p.m. The President issues Proclamation 47 declaring a state of rebellion. She issues general Order No. 4 directing the AFP and the PNP to carry out the necessary measures to quell the rebellion.

Before 3 p.m. Estrada is transferred back to the VMMC.

Around 3 p.m. At least 10 rebel soldiers march out of Oakwood and return to the government fold.

Around 3:30 p.m. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio announces that about 50 rebel soldiers have already turned their backs on the mutineers and have rejoined the government.

Around 4:50 p.m. Rebel officers begin a chaotic press briefing, with Capt. Milo Maestrocampo appealing for understanding. "Don't judge us. We are not terrorists. Whatever may happen here, we can say we stood our ground."

5 p.m. Before the President's 5 p.m. deadline expires, Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye announces that the deadline has been extended by two hours, to 7 p.m., citing late-breaking developments relayed by retired Gen. Roy Cimatu, who is negotiating with the rebels.

Around 5:20 p.m. Sen. Gregorio Honasan arrives in Oakwood to talk to some of the rebel officers.

5:30 p.m. Authorities raid what they say is an operation center of the Magdalo rebel group in Mandaluyong City.

Around 7:30 p.m. Palace extends deadline indefinitely, as negotiations led by Cimatu continue.

Around 9:50 p.m. In a Palace press briefing, a beaming President announces that, after several hours of negotiation, the day-old rebellion has been resolved. She says the mutineers will be investigated and punished according to the law, and civilian supporters will be charged. In the same briefing, AFP chief Abaya says: "We have essentially quelled the rebellion."

Around 10:10 p.m. Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling is set to bring the mutineers to Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Inq7.net*

Crisis over

From page A18

The Magdalo faction figured prominently in the feud with the Magdiwang faction of the Katipunan on the Filipino Republic leadership that led to the execution of Katipunan Supremo Andres Bonifacio and his brother Procopio on May 10, 1897 in Maragondon, Cavite.

Pity

"It's the end of their career. They did not even present recommendations on how to resolve their issues," a mistah based in Mindanao told the INQUIRER.

"We pity our mistahs. They stand by their idealism but we know they are being used. There are higher classes involved but it just happened that they were able to recruit more members from our class," a mistah, who was present during the first negotiation, said.

Something wrong

"They say its "*lumang tugtugin* (old song)." This is not just about low pay or housing. There is something wrong with the system. We are OK. The troops are OK," a plotter told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

One of the plotters, Capt. Fermin Mulleda Mabulo, was arrested by members of the Intelligence Security Group in Fort Bonifacio at around 2 a.m. yesterday.

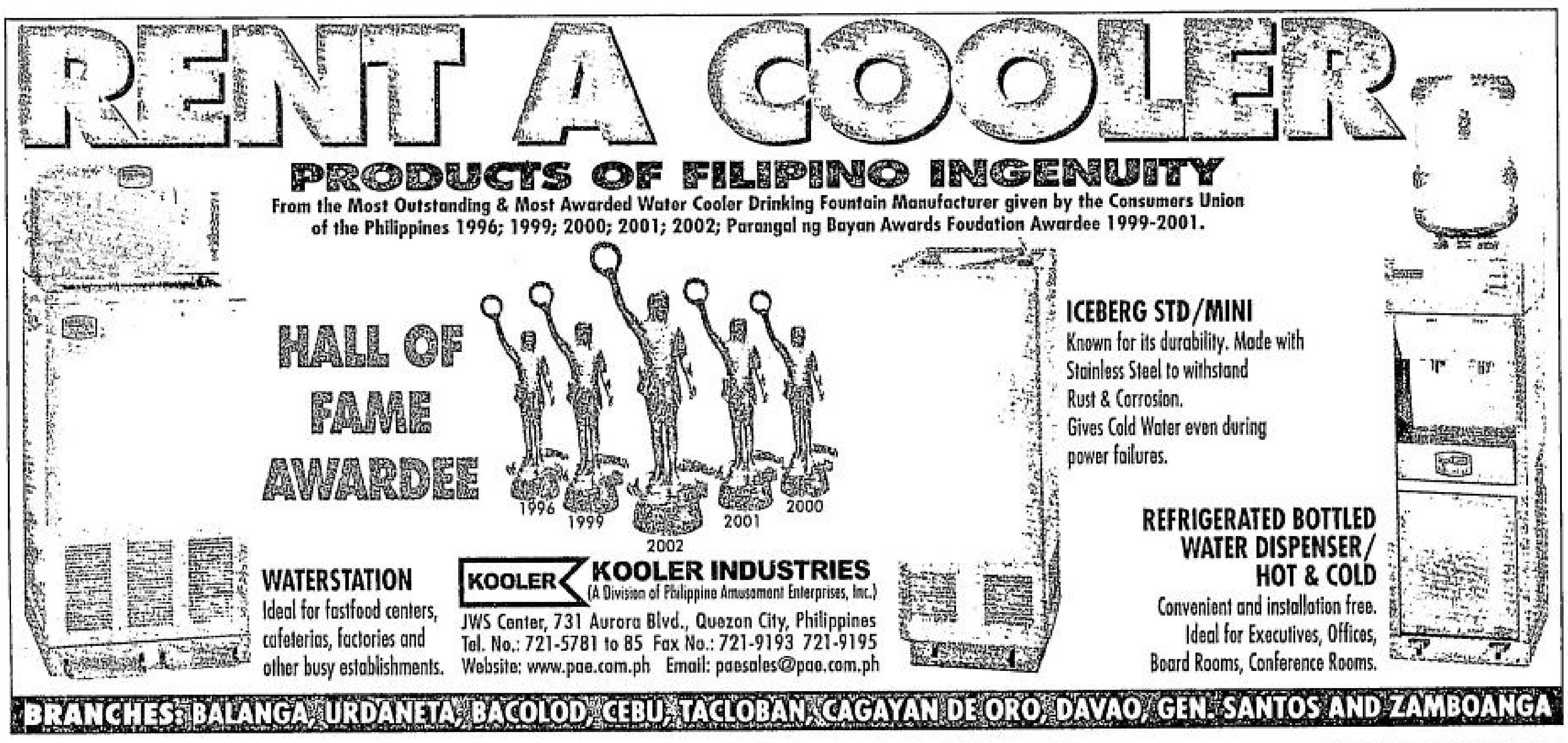
The other plotters were Class '95 members Baloloy, 31, originally a member of Class '94, Army Scout Ranger; Gambala, 31, Class '95 topnotcher, Army Scout Ranger; Maestrecampo, 32, Army Scout Ranger; Capt. Segundino Pidot Orfiano Jr., 30, Air Force-MG-520; Capt. Laurence Louis Bumatay Somera, 32, originally a member of Class '94, Army Scout Ranger; Capt. Arnold Pizana Tapia, 33, Air Force-OV-10.

Navy Lieutenants Layug, 33, a member of the Special Warfare Group and an explosives expert; Trillanes and Ltsg Eugene Louie Gonzalez, 35, (detailed at the Department of National Defense).

Layug and Trillanes were present at the July 16 Class '95 meeting at the AFPCOC.

Members of Class '97 who joined the coup were First Lieutenants Lawrence San Juan, Army Scout Ranger; Warren Lee Dagupon, Army Scout Ranger; Florentino Somera, Army Scout Ranger Class '96; Jose Enrico Dingle, Army Scout Ranger (originally a member of Class '95).

From Class '99: First Lieutenants Francisco Ashley Acedillo, 26 (Air Force pilot); Allen Van Estrera, 27, (Army Scout Ranger); and Ricky Canatoy, 26, (Army Scout Ranger). From Class 2000, 2Lt. Christopher Brian Yasay, (Army Scout Ranger). *With reports from Philip Tubeza, Doris C. Dumlao, Juliet L. Javellana, and TJ Burgonio in Manila; PDI Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon and Minadanao Bureaus, and PDI Central Luzon Desk*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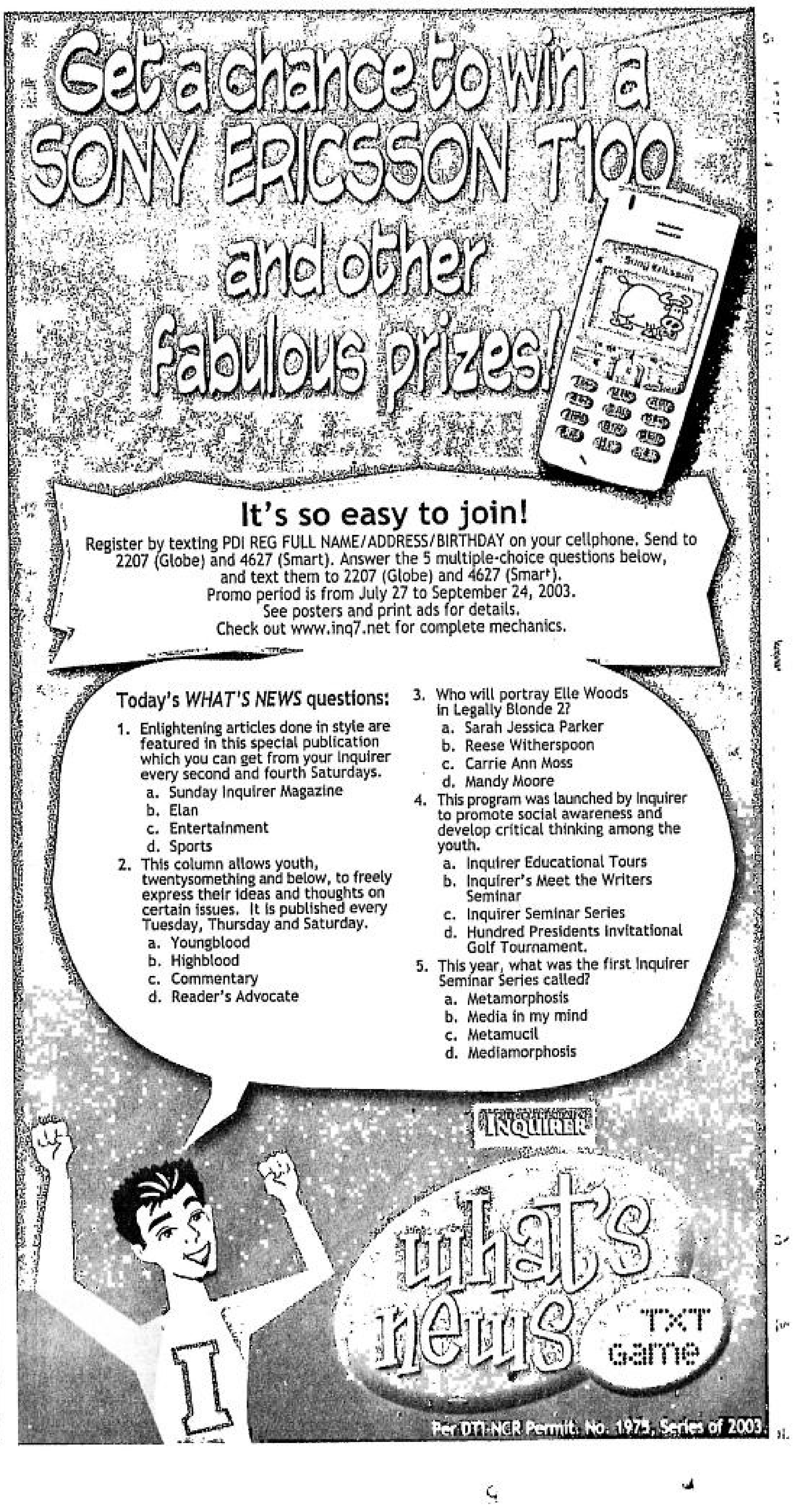
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1. Enlightening articles done in style are featured in this special publication which you can get from your Inquirer every second and fourth Saturdays.
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   b. Elan
   c. Entertainment
   d. Sports
2. This column allows youth, twentysomething and below, to freely express their ideas and thoughts on certain issues. It is published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
   a. Youngblood
   b. Highblood
   c. Commentary
   d. Reader's Advocate
3. Who will portray Elle Woods in Legally Blonde 2?
   a. Sarah Jessica Parker
   b. Reese Witherspoon
   c. Carrie Ann Moss
   d. Mandy Moore
4. This program was launched by Inquirer to promote social awareness and develop critical thinking among the youth.
   a. Inquirer Educational Tours
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   d. Hundred Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament.
5. This year, what was the first Inquirer Seminar Series called?
   a. Metamorphosis
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   d. Mediamorphosis
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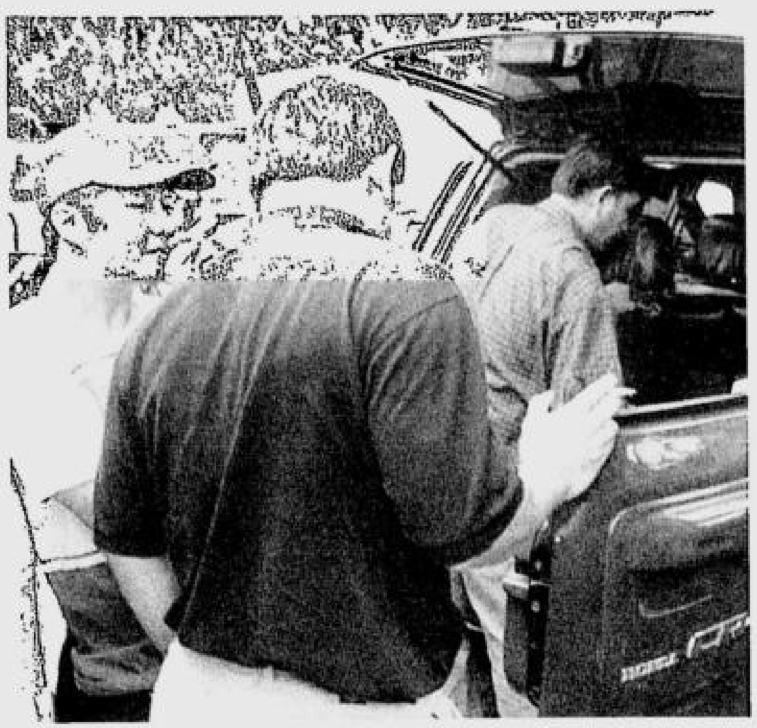
what's news TXT game
Per DTI-NCR Permit. No. 1975, Series of 2003.

PDEA exec yields shabu



POLICE Inspector Guilberto Mansueto (with cap), team leader of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, is arrested for possessing two kilos of shabu in his CRV Honda van during inspection at a checkpoint set up by the Aviation Security Group at the Naia. ROGER MARGALLO

By Christian V. Esguerra

ABOUT one kilo of high-grade shabu was found on an official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Chief Insp. Gualberto Mansueto, head of PDEA's special enforcement service, was caught with the illegal drugs worth about P2 million during inspection yesterday morning, said PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr.

Avenido immediately sacked Mansueto and placed him under the custody of PDEA's Metro Manila Regional Office in Camp Crame pending the completion of the investigation.

"We will never tolerate a PDEA operative, and a ranking official at that, who is involved in illegal drugs," he told the INQUIRER.

During preliminary investigation, Mansueto claimed that he had confiscated the illegal substance during an operation in Cavite, Avenido said.

Mansueto claimed he was supposed to turn over the shabu to the PDEA headquarters yesterday morning. He said another member of the PDEA coming from Cebu supposedly asked Mansueto to fetch him at the airport first.

"That is his version of the incident," Avenido said. "But we won't readily buy it, of course."

Avenido said Mansueto could be sentenced to death should the court find him guilty of possession of the banned substance.

Cops eye 2 motives in ambush

PROFESSIONAL jealousy and his being very strict at work are two of the reasons why an attempt on the life of customs collector Felipe Bartolome was made by three men at the Anda Circle in Manila last Friday night, according to Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong.

Bulaong yesterday said people might be mad at Bartolome, who is assigned at the Manila International Container Port, adding that the customs collector could have strained illegal operations there.

Bartolome has yet to give police his statement. His driver Erwin Melmida died in the ambush, and his bodyguards P01 Declaro and P03 Ricardo Castillo were wounded in the ambush. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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Restive over pay

SOLDIERS are not the only government employees restive over pay. A group of state workers in charge of a key government program—housing for the urban poor—are griping that their salaries have been delayed for three months. The workers are contractual employees of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council's National Government Center East Side Development Project. They are the ones screening urban poor housing beneficiaries in communities at the Batasan-Payatas-Commonwealth area in Quezon City. The employees have written the Civil Service Commission on July 23 to complain that they haven't been receiving their salaries since May. "This (delay in salaries) is hurting us because we all have families," the employees told CSC chair Karina David. *Carlito Pablo*

Convict's appeal

A CONVICT at the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City has said that he is innocent. Peter Co, who is serving a life sentence for drug trafficking, denied that police found shabu on him in a surprise inspection on Wednesday. He said that he was cooking in a kubol between 4 to 5 p.m. when a team of prison personnel arrived. Co said he was put in an isolated ward with two other Chinese inmates after inspecting his kubol for 15 minutes. "This is another harassment case, to which I had been subjected to almost every month during the previous administration," Co said. *Margaux Ortiz*

Fake lamps seized

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Intellectual Property Rights Division confiscated around P100,000 worth of fake Philips lamps and labels in Manila. Agents raided storage houses of suspect Lai Chuk, at the Juan Luna Mall in Binondo, the New Divisoria Mall in San Nicolas, and the Don Eusebio building in Quiapo. The suspect faces charges for the violation of the Intellectual Property Code. *Tarra Quismundo*

UP-PGH course

THE DEPARTMENT of Family and Community Medicine of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital will hold its 18th annual post-graduate course at St. Paul's College, Manila, on Sept. 4-6. This year's theme focuses on children's issues, women's health and concern for older persons. For details, contact Ms Michelle Allasco at 521-8450 local 5303.

Fake ink cartridges

AROUND P3 million worth of fake printer ink cartridges were seized by National Bureau of Investigation agents in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. NBI agents raided last July 15 Maya Emporium, at 312 A.B. Fernandez Ave., in Dagupan, after they received complaints from international companies Hewlett Packard and Canon. They confiscated refilled and repackaged ink and toner cartridges which were sold as products of the said companies. *Tarra Quismundo*

Rebel 'staging area'

From page A24

symbol.

The red arm bands were similar to those worn by 200 mutinous junior officers and soldiers who occupied the Oakwood Premiere hotel early yesterday morning, noted Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

Cabuay said 30 to 40 of the military rebels used the Mandaluyong house to prepare for the Makati siege.

"This was where they met and changed clothes and perhaps got their final briefing," he told reporters during the raid.

Caloy Maceda, 44, a resident of the Mandaluyong compound since 1965, said the property used to be owned by Virginia Milevo, wife of actor Efren Reyes Sr. and a close friend of Estrada and Enriquez.

"Whenever there were occasions," he told reporters, "I usually saw the former President in the house."

"What I know is that the house was later bought by former President Estrada," he said.

"When the house was being constructed, I saw Laarni visiting the place on at least three occasions."

Lina said authorities would try to find any connections between the disturbance in Makati and the former President and Laarni.

National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was careful not to make conclusions when he was interviewed during the raid.

"We first have to prove the ownership and do some documentation," he said.

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

VMMC to Camp Aguinaldo to VMMC

By Volt Contreras, TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

FORMER President Estrada had been complaining of not being allowed to go out to get some sun, but what he got yesterday was not something he wanted either.

Estrada was virtually carried out of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) at 10 a.m. and taken for a 15-minute ride through Agham Road, Quezon Avenue and Edsa to Camp Aguinaldo.

The former President was brought to the headquarters of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) escorted by two armored personnel carriers and a convoy of police cars.

"There was a clear and present danger to the former President," said Interior Secretary Joey Lina as he justified the transfer without any orders from the court.

"Why do you still need a court order for that?" he added.

Lina stressed that "We have an obligation to protect him since he is in our custody. If any harm befalls him, we will be responsible."

Without saying which group was planning to rescue the former President who is facing charges of plunder, AFP vice chief Lt. Gen Rodolfo Garcia said it could be related to the takeover of a hotel in Makati City by a group of mutinous military officers and soldiers.

Estrada was however driven back to the presidential suite of the VMMC at 3 p.m. at his request because he did not feel comfortable at the one-story, four-room "transient quarters" at the ISAFP where he was brought.

The "bungalow" had air-conditioning units, a kitchen and a rest-room .

Until Saturday night, the families of four witnesses, all police officers, in the 1995 rubout of 11 alleged Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang members had been staying in the "bungalow."

Before the witnesses and their families occupied it, the safehouse was used as quarters by Estrada's ISAFP chief, Gen. Jose Calimlim. The house was built on the initiative of the former general, sources said.

The former President was brought to the camp in a heavily tinted luxury vehicle and was accompanied by Sen. Vicente Sotto III, former Sen. Rene Saguisag and his former lawyer, Sigfrid Fortun.

Estrada had been detained at a presidential suite at the VMMC since he was charged with plunder in May 2001. His son and co-accused, Jinggoy Estrada, was released on bail a few months ago.

Following his return to the VMMC, the police doubled security at the hospital compound to foil any attempts to rescue him.

Reached by the INQUIRER about 30 minutes before he was moved from the VMMC to Camp Aguinaldo, Estrada maintained that he had nothing to do with the mutiny, but went on to blame the Macapagal administration for "not acting" immediately on the rebel soldiers' grievances.

"They (the administration) have said the grievances are legitimate but did not act on it—and now they suspect me of being behind this," Estrada said in Filipino.

Asked if he approves of the rebel soldiers' methods, Estrada initially deferred comment but later said: "It's still their call. I believe they're already sick and tired of the corruption..."

He also described the disturbance as "a people's uprising."

He said he "was not able to sleep" the whole night at his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center as he kept track of the developments.

Rebel 'staging area' raided

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE and military operatives yesterday raided a house reportedly used as a "staging area" by rebel soldiers before they assaulted the Ayala Center in Makati.

The three-story house at 461 J. Vargas St., Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, is said to be owned by former President Estrada and his mistress Laarni Enriquez.

The INQUIRER repeatedly tried to reach Estrada at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center but a female staff said he was in his room and could not be disturbed.

Operatives of the Naval Intelligence had been watching the place since Saturday night after residents tipped off the presence of heavily armed men in the compound, said Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, deputy chief of staff for intelligence.

During the raid, authorities found several rounds of M-30 machine gun ammunition, hundreds of "links" for a 50-caliber firearm, 10 camouflage uniforms, pistol belts, flippers and at least 35 black backpacks.

Authorities also found several identification cards bearing the name of Jigger Paculba, an enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces.

They also found red arm bands, including a flag, that bore the rebel soldiers' "Magdalo"

REBEL/ A23

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Color broadcast equipment cost three times more than maintaining those used for black-and-white. In spite of the business risks involved, Geny's pioneering spirit prevailed. Thus, in November of that year, the Philippines became the second Asian nation to enjoy color TV via CBN Channel 3.

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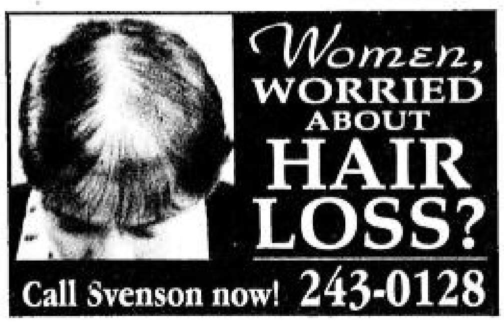
SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Hornets vs Bucks, Game 7, 2001 Eastern Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—Baron Davis and Charlotte try and eliminate Ray Allen and Milwaukee in this classic playoff duel.

Pacers vs Nets, Game 5, 2002 Eastern First Round; 11 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports—Indiana and New Jersey slug it out in overtime for a chance to advance further in the 2002 playoffs.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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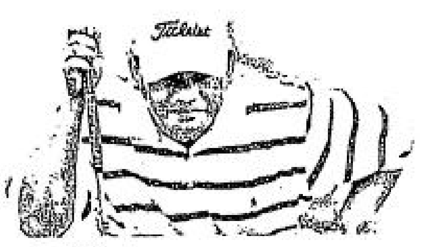
■ Loyzaga to undergo heart bypass surgery /A27

■ Beermen overwhelm RP five /A26

■ In the bag for Lance /A28



■ DHL to sponsor RP Open golf /A29

■ Volleyball's loss is fencing's gain /A30

■ Capriati breaks jinx /A31

FILIPINO RETAINS CROWN

Pacquiao crackling left stops Lucero in third

By Recah Trinidad

STILL CHAMP: Manny Pacquiao celebrates with his handlers after retaining his IBF crown. AP

LOS ANGELES, California—Silvester Stallone, who cheered and goaded Manny Pacquiao from the front row, knew right from the first round that the challenger would come down crashing.

A great fan of good boxing, Stallone knows a great finisher when he sees one.

After repeatedly yelling "Go get him," "Hit him hard, Manny," the Hollywood superstar stood and whooped it up after Pacquiao landed a crackling left to stop Emmanuel Lucero in the third round.

However, the end came too early for the short, wild, overmatched challenger and Pacquiao claimed he was happily shocked.

"*Nabigla talaga ako* (I was really surprised)," Pacquiao told the INQUIRER in the cramped dugout after he had gathered his team and offered a prayer in thanksgiving for the successful retention of his International Boxing Federation superbantamweight crown Saturday night (Sunday in Manila) at the vintage-1924 Grand Olympic Auditorium, where no Filipino boxer had won a world championship before.

The end was so abrupt that Pacquiao failed to properly identify the bankable left hook that did it.

Overjoyed, Pacquiao said it was a left uppercut, a weapon he had perfected at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, that did it.

He was so sure of the punch he had thrown and even described how he shifted his weight, without lifting his feet, before throwing it.

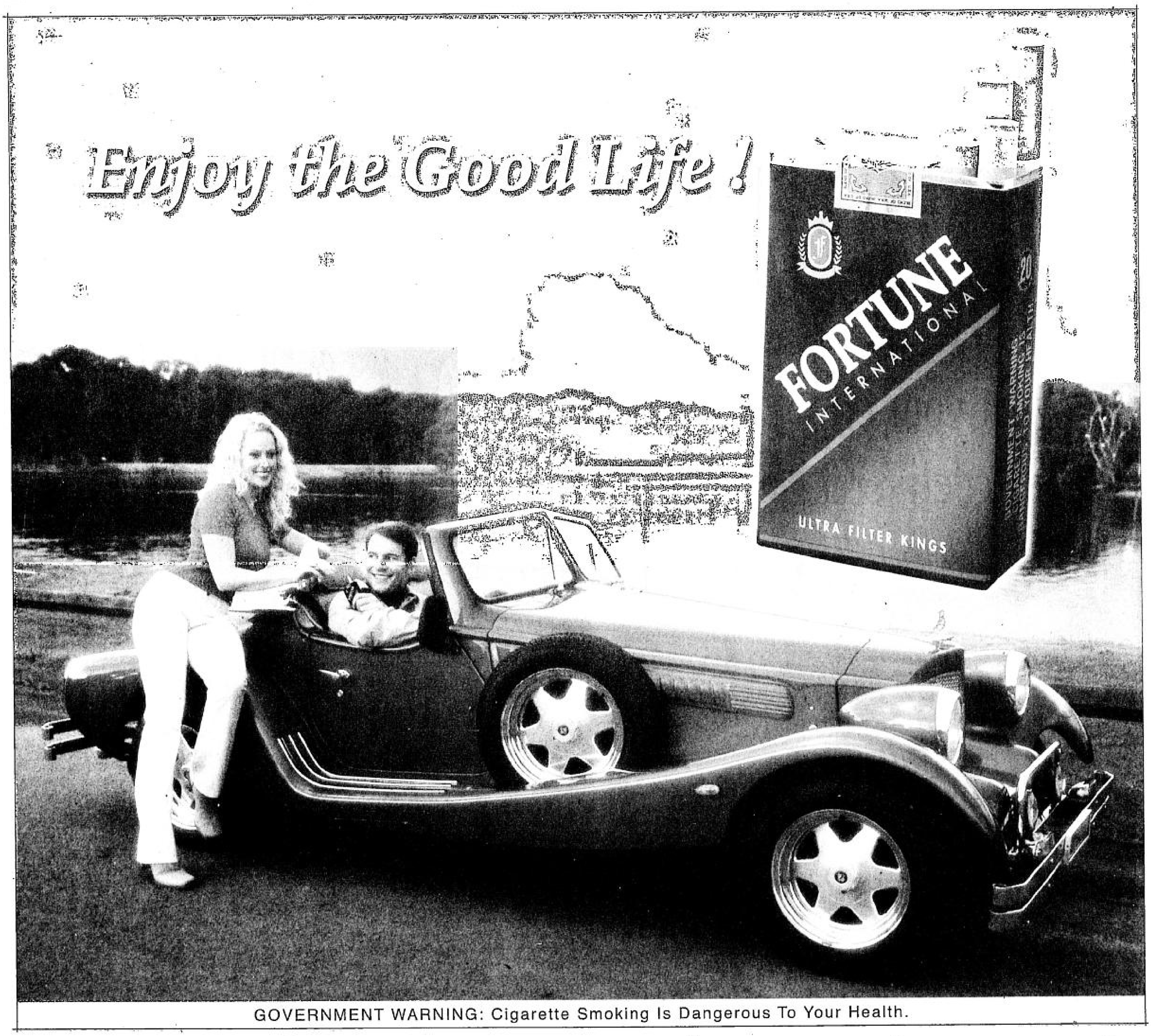
Truth is the well-timed, well-executed left hook landed smack on the base of Lucero's ear, and the murderous impact sort of momentarily detached the challenger's feet from the canvas.

Lucero reacted queerly, like a chicken that got rapped in the head, and this forced referee Jose Cobian of the United States to bodily block Pacquiao as the champ moved in for the kill.

Pacquiao thought he had not hit his foe hard enough.

For the record, the unbeaten Lucero, through his trainer, had vowed to use a

PACQUIAO/ A26



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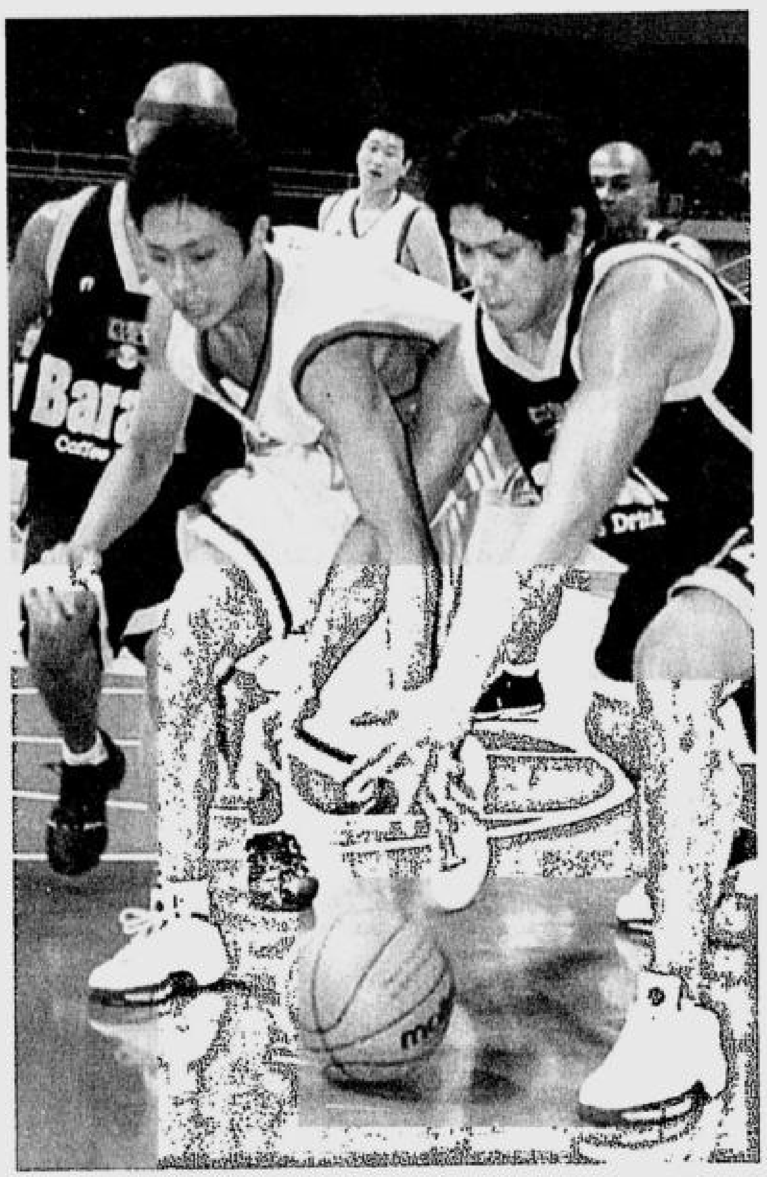
Red Bull overcomes Yonsei's hot shooting



YONSEI University's Kim Jae-hwan battles for the loose ball with Red Bull Barako's Jimwell Torion (left) and Enrico Villanueva in the PBA nightcap won by the Thunder. RUDY ESPERAS

By June Navarro

NELSON Asaytono threw his weight in the middle as Red Bull Barako escaped disaster with a 106-96 victory over a hot-shooting Yonsei University five of South Korea last night at the start of the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Virtually unstoppable inside the paint, Asaytono banged in 26 of his game-high 30 points in the final half. His intensity helped turn the tide in favor of the Thunder, who huffed and puffed from Yonsei's fastbreaks.

In the opener, San Miguel Beer taught the Cebuana Lhuiller-RP Team a neat lesson in basketball to fashion out a 95-55 rout.

"They're very quick. We only beat them because of our size, and Nelson took advantage of it," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

With the peppery Sul Kim-tae orchestrating play and Jung Goo-jun and Jung Hyup-lee shooting torridly from the outside, the visitors dominated the match—until Asaytono stepped in.

"They're a typical Korean team," said Guiao. "They moved the ball at a very quick pace and shot pretty well from the outside. It's always hard to beat a team that shoots well from the floor."

The two Jungs and Seung Tae-choi typified the Koreans' shooting prowess, drilling three triples each.

Hee Jong-yang buried two three-pointers while Ju Ik-baek and Seung Won-jung had a trey each as Yonsei converted 13 of their 30 attempts from the three-point arc for a 43-percent clip.

Except for Asaytono, the rest of the Thunder struggled with their shooting. They sunk only three of 10 tries from rainbow country.

Jimwell Torion, coming off a three-month suspension, looked jittery but kept pace with the slippery Sul in the backcourt.

"It was quite expected that Jimwell would struggle on the floor. *Wala pa ang dating mga kilos niya,*" said Guiao.

San Miguel coach Jong Uichico insisted that the final score in their game against the Nationals didn't matter at all.

Uichico said the important thing was that the Beermen helped the Nationals hone their skills.

"By playing hard against the RP Team, we are helping them to improve their game and at the same time maintain the level of intensity that we want to have in this tournament," said Uichico.

"If we relax, the RP team won't learn anything from us," he added.

Until the dying minutes of the last period, the Beermen kept their intensity as Olsen Racela, Danny Ildefonso, Nic Belasco and Benjie Paras played no-nonsense ball.

The Nationals, led by Gary David and Al Magpayo, were not only outclassed. They even watched their basketball idols in awe.

Magpayo and Ronald Capati, the 1-2 punch of College of St. Benilde, were suprise additions to the RP team thanks to a decision by the NCAA to allow its players to play for flag and country.

Scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 95—Ildefonso 20, Belasco 17, Racela 13, Paras 10, Victoria 9, Mente 8, Gahol 6, Legaspi 4, Gamboa 4, Hontiveros 4.

RP TEAM 55—David 10, Magpayo 9, Cruz 7, Melencio 5, Pingris 4, Omolon 4, Junio 4, Calimag 2, Franco 2, Wilson 2, Capati 0, Madrid 0.

Quarters: 14-8, 46-25, 73-34, 95-55

Second Game

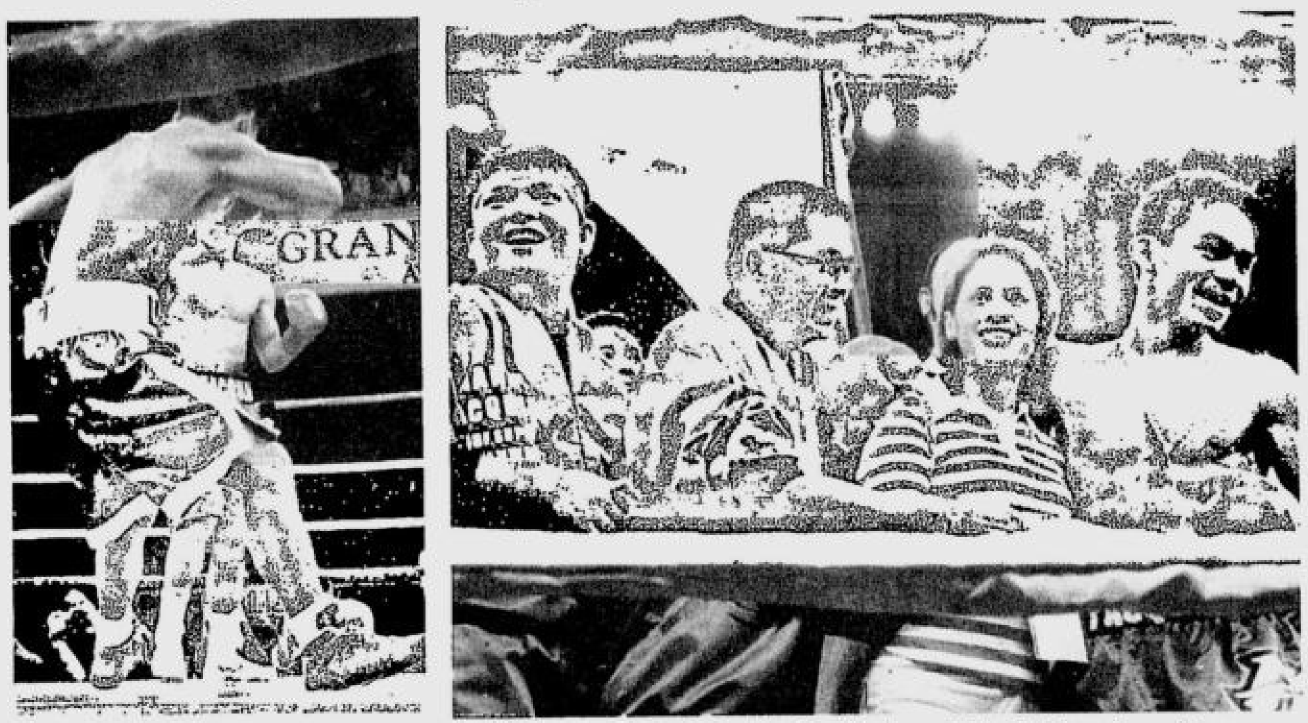
RED BULL 106—Asaytono 30, Villanueva 18, Miller 17, Pennisi 16, Tugade 9, Torion 8, Se 4, Reyes 2, Villoria 1, Valenzuela 1, Hizon 0.

YONSEI 96—Jung GJ 22, Hee 16, Ju 13, Seung TC 12, Jung HL 12, Tae 11, Jae 5, Seung WJ 3, Sang 2, Kwang 0.

Quarters: 22-14, 43-40, 71-69, 106-96

Pacquiao crackling left stops Lucero in third

From page A25



LUCERO staggers (left) from a Pacquiao left hook that ended the bout in the third round. The Filipino champ later celebrates with wife and trainers Buboy Fernandez and Lito Mondejar. BONG MALABANAN

secret weapon in his first try at a world crown after having won a total of 21 fights.

But for an awkward defensive style, done by crouching below Pacquiao's knees, Lucero, once called The Butcher for his rib-crushing blows that had stopped 12 foes, was the same amateurish slugger the champ had seen on tapes.

Pacquiao would agree that Lucero had a big punch, but the champ readily explained that the three times he got hurt were all caused by headbutts.

At least, the empty claims of the challenger, a street fighter who was born in Mexico and raised in New York's tough Bronx section, had led Pacquiao to train hardest for the fourth defense of the world 122-lb crown he took from Lehlo Ledwabah in June 2001 via a knockout.

"I was not worried, we did not have to make any adjustment after the first round," explained trainer Freddie Roach, who successfully prepared Pacquiao for his fourth straight crown defense.

Roach said he merely asked Pacquiao to wait, be patient, take his time.

Naturally, Roach, unlike Pacquiao, was the least surprised of the early knockout.

The official time of the stoppage was placed at 48 seconds of the third round.

But with the disparity in build, background and skills of the combatants, Lucero could've been floored right in the first round had he dared fight at eye level, and not bent too low like a farmer harvesting crops out in the field.

He failed to live up to his billing but the $50,000 paid Lucero was a fortune compared to the $10 he got in his first street fight when he was still a kid.

Pacquiao's fee was pegged at $180,000, the richest in his career.

And brief as it was, Pacquiao's sensational win was a lot more exciting—it was a better theater than Fernando Vargas' lackluster victory over an overrated Fritz Vanderpool of Canada.

Vargas, well-adored in the LA area, failed to relive his sharp form and fabled ferociousness as he came back from a nine-month ban for steroid use.

Stallone courteously stayed for Vargas' so-so show, but there was no need to ask which fight he enjoyed most.

Coup alert wipes out UAAP sked

GAMES THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs)
6 p.m.—NU vs DLSZ (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

LA SALLE's bid to solidify its hold of the solo leadership in the UAAP men's basketball championship didn't get off the ground yesterday, no thanks to a group of rebel soldiers calling for reforms in the military who seized a big hotel in Makati.

Owing to the shaky situation, Jose Capistrano Jr., president of the UAAP board, declared yesterday the postponement of all games which included men's and women's basketball and men's and women's volleyball which were supposed to be held in various venues.

"The safety of the UAAP family is our paramount concern," said Capistrano of host Ateneo. Capistrano said he consulted the board and the teams affected by the postponement before making the decision.

MEN'S

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	3	0
FEU	3	1
UE	2	1
Ateneo	2	2
UST	2	2
Adamson	1	2
NU	1	3
UP	0	3

JUNIORS

STANDINGS	W	L
Adamson	2	0
La Salle	2	1
UST	2	1
Ateneo	2	1
UP	1	2
UE	1	2
NU	0	3

Unbeaten in three matches, the Archers were scheduled to meet the Adamson Falcons at the Loyola Gym. Also reset were the games between University of the East and the University of the Philippines, both in the seniors and juniors division.

The La Salle-Zobel-Adamson tiff in junior basketball was also postponed.

Women's basketball games at the Adamson gym were also postponed. La Salle, seeking an unprecedented fifth straight crown, was supposed to meet University of the East. The games between title-favorite Adamson and Ateneo, UP and Far Eastern University were also reset.

Over at the UP College of Kinetics gym, volleyball matches between National University and UP in the men's and women's classes were postponed. Also affected were the games between La Salle and UE (men's) and the La Salle-Adamson (women's); Ateneo vs FEU (men's) and Ateneo against Santo Tomas (women's); and the clashes between Santo Tomas and Adamson (men's), and FEU and UE (women's).

La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren said he fully supported Capistrano's decision.

"It's difficult to gamble when you're talking about safety," Pumaren, a Quezon City councilor, said."We pray for a peaceful solution to this event."

The Archers (3-0) found themselves hugging the top spot after erstwhile co-leader FEU got ambushed by Santo Tomas, 51-45, last Saturday at the Loyola Gym.

FEU dropped to 3-1, while Santo Tomas improved to 2-2, the same card of titlist Ateneo.

La Salle was hoping to make a successful follow-up to its masterful 84-65 win over UE last Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum. Pumaren, however, cautioned his charges not to take the Falcons lightly.

Adamson scored its first win after three games by downing UP, 83-80, also last Thursday and youthful mentor Luigi Trillo is determined to keep the Falcons' winning ways.

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Flashy Paro, Batawang too much for rivals

By Salven L. Lagumbay

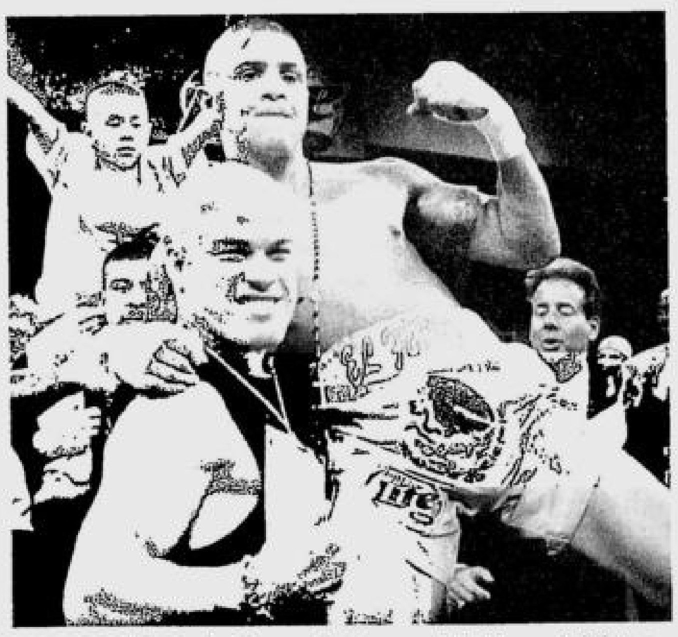
MANDAUE CITY—RP No. 4 superfly Sherwin "Super Assassin" Paro knocked out veteran Nathan Barcelona in the fourth round of a scheduled tenner in the "Back2Back" card at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex Saturday.

The counter-punching Paro, a protégé of sportsman Tony Aldegeur and Marty Elorde, used a blistering right to the body to knock down his rival before delivering the *coup de grace* with 2:05 gone in the fourth.

The win, Paro's 11th straight, with 7 KOs, makes him a likely candidate to challenge the winner of the Aug. 16 Alex Egina-Ramie Laput duel for the vacant RP 115-lb title.

In the co-feature, RP junior fly champ Bert Batawang took two rounds to size up Sherwin Manatad then dug a wicked right to the body and disposed of his rival with 2:39 gone in the third.

The win was a big boost for Batawang, who will defend his RP title against Davao's Jack Maldecir on Aug. 30 in Mandaue City.



SUPPORTERS hoist Fernando Vargas while his son jubilates behind him. AP

Vargas punishes foe, keeps crown

LOS ANGELES—Fernando Vargas was dominant from the beginning before stopping Fitz Vanderpool at 2:36 of the sixth round of their junior middleweight bout Saturday night.

There were no knockdowns, although Vanderpool hit the canvas four times on what were ruled slips.

The final two came in the sixth round before Vargas cornered Vanderpool and was punching his defenseless opponent at will before referee Marty Denken stopped the fight.

Vargas was the clear winner of every round, leading on the judges' scorecards by 50-45, 50-45 and 50-44 in the first five rounds of the bout, scheduled for 10 rounds.

The Associated Press had Vargas leading 50-45.

Vanderpool threw 316 punches, but landed only 44, and none appeared to do more than minimal damage.

Vargas threw 243 punches, landing 125—many of which were solid blows. *AP*

Loyzaga to undergo heart bypass surgery

LOYZAGA

CALOY Loyzaga, acknowledged as the greatest Filipino basketball player, will undergo a heart bypass operation today at the Princess Alexandria Hospital in Brisbane, Australia.

The INQUIRER got the information from a text message sent by Chito Loyzaga, son of the 6-foot-3 center who earned the moniker "The Great Difference" for powering the Philippine team to third place in the 1954 World Basketball Championship in Brazil.

Chito requests their relatives, friends and fans to pray that everything would turn out well for the 72-year-old Caloy, who also powered the Philippines to seventh place in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

During Caloy's prime, the Filipinos were Asian Games champions from 1951-1963. In 1967, Caloy also coached the Filipinos to the Asian Basketball Confederation Championship in Seoul, Korea.

For his exploits, Caloy, who's been living in Arundel, Gold Coast, was conferred the Greatest Filipino Basketball Player of All-Time award during the inaugural of the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association in 1998 in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

He was also honored by the Philippine Sportswriters Assocation as one of five greatest Filipino athletes enshrined to the San Beda Hall of Fame in February.

Apart from Chito, former basketball pro and MBA commissioner, Caloy has another son Joey, also a former pro, and daughters Bing and Theresa, both actresses. *Roy Luarca*

WOODS

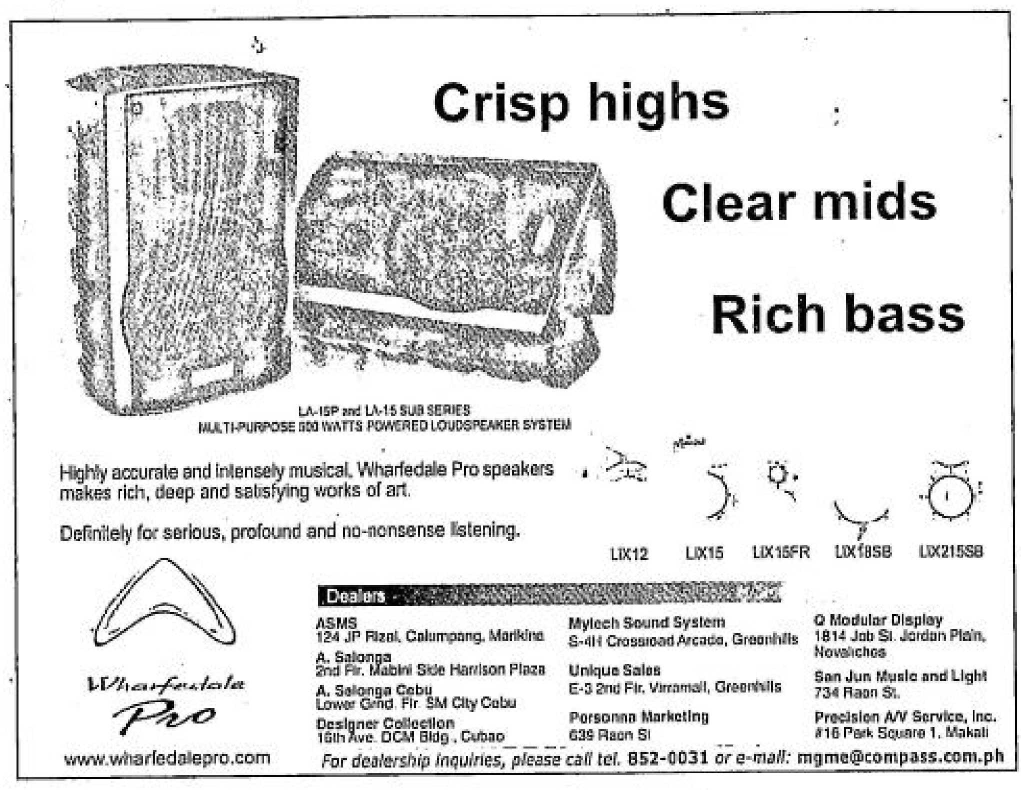
ELS

Bridges golf duel pairs Tiger with Els

AFTER watching last week's bizarre British Open finish, local fans are in for another treat when Dream Satellite TV Channel 49 telecasts the showdown of the world's biggest names in golf in The Bridges in Rancho Santa Fe, California tomorrow.

Tiger Woods' rivalry with Ernie Els for the world No. 1 ranking takes a backseat when they play as a team against Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia in what is one of golf's greatest events.

The highlights of the explosive showdown will have its live broadcast on Dream Satellite TV Channel 29 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., with a replay scheduled on the same channel in the evening starting at 6 p.m.



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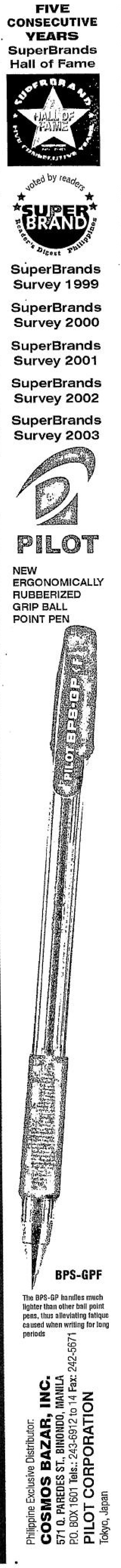

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'Fresh' Bjorn puts British Open heartbreak behind

PORTMARNOCK, Ireland—Thomas Bjorn's recovery from last week's British Open trauma gathered pace Saturday as he moved back to the head of the field at the Irish Open.

The Dane, who lost a three-shot lead with two to play at Royal St. George's, fired a third round 68, four-under par, to head into Sunday's final round in a share of the lead with New Zealand's Michael Campbell (71) and England's David Lynn (72).

Bjorn said that while victory here would not be enough to wipe out the nightmare of last weekend, he was happy to be back on track.

"No matter what happens I have proved I am going in the right direction and I'm still a force to be reckoned with," he said.

"Winning is not going to make up for last week, though. Nothing will until I win a major—as simple as that."

Campbell is also on the recovery trail after a disastrous spell in America earlier this year.

The Kiwi star missed the cut in every tournament he entered on the other side of the Atlantic and scored 89 for a round in the Players' Championship in March.

The Dane said he felt rejuvenated Saturday morning.

"I had one of those sleeps where you have nine hours, and you wake up feeling you had about 15 minutes," said Bjorn. "But you feel fresh in your head again."

England's Greg Owen and Sweden's Robert Karlsson are one-shot behind, with Australia's Peter Lonard two back.

Bjorn briefly led after his fifth birdie on the 9th hole, but he bogeyed three of his final six holes.

"I hit some good shots early on, made some mistakes, but all in all, I'm happy with (Saturday)," said Bjorn.

"I came here with one thing in mind and that was to prove to myself I was doing the right things with my golf. No matter what happens (Sunday), I have proved that," said Bjorn, but adding that "winning (Sunday) is not going to make up for last week."

Lynn hasn't won in five years on the tour.

He led at the Dubai Desert Classic earlier this year but ended up finishing third. *AFP, AP*

In the bag for Lance

Spill ruins Ullrich's hopes

ULLRICH AFP

ARMSTRONG reacts in the last few meters of a big run in the 49-km individual time trial Saturday to virtually clinch the Tour de France cycling title. REUTERS

NANTES, France—Lance Armstrong all but locked up a record-tying fifth Tour de France title in a drama-packed time trial Saturday by finishing ahead of rival Jan Ullrich, who fell.

Barring disaster, Armstrong will match Miguel Indurain's record of five successive victories in the last stage to Paris on Sunday.

Knowing that the Tour was his, Armstrong thrust a clenched right fist into the air as he powered to the finish of the treacherously rain-soaked time trial to Nantes, a broad smile on his face.

The gesture was "relief to have made it through a time trial that was very dangerous at the end and relief to have gotten that much closer to winning the Tour de France," Armstrong said.

He finished third, one place and 11 seconds ahead of Ullrich, the 1997 Tour champion whose rivalry with Armstrong made this year's race one of the most gripping in years.

Only a fall or a similar such disaster that puts Armstrong out of the race Sunday would open the door to Ullrich.

Ullrich's challenge effectively ended when he slipped negotiating a traffic circle about on the 49-km course from the Atlantic coast port of Pornic to the western town of Nantes. He hit the deck, sliding across the road. He got back on his bike but never recovered his rhythm and concentration.

Ullrich had been 65 seconds behind at the start of the race-deciding stage, forcing him to ride like the wind to try to close the gap.

By the end, Armstrong's overall lead had grown to 76 seconds. Never has Armstrong run such a close Tour since he won the first of his titles in 1999.

Of his five wins, Armstrong said this was "absolutely the most difficult year for many reasons: physically not super, tactically some mistakes made."

"But this close one feels different and feels better than some of the others—or all of the others. It's very satisfying," he said.

He said he would try next year, at age 32, to become the first rider to ever win six Tours.

"I'll be back next year and I'm not coming back to get second," he said.

Sunday's last stage to what is expected to be a crowd-packed Champs-Elysees is mostly flat and will not offer Ullrich a chance to make up the lost time, so Armstrong's lead should be more than enough to elevate him to the pantheon of five-time winners: Spaniard Indurain, Frenchmen Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault and Belgium's Eddy Merckx.

Armstrong said Hinault congratulated him by saying: "Welcome to the club."

With the rain turning the course slippery and several riders falling before him, he said he raced cautiously to protect his slight lead.

"The last 10 kilometers were really dangerous, it was very stormy and there was a lot of water on the road," said Armstrong. "My plan today was to leave gently and get into a rhythm, I had a lead of more than minute. I didn't want to take any risks."

The dramatic finale in the time trial was fitting for what has been a roller-coaster trek around France where it seemed at times that Armstrong's dream of matching Indurain's record would evaporate.

He suffered stomach flu before the kickoff on July 5; was bruised in a crash on the second day and failed to shine in the Alps. He even had to divert into a field in one stage to avoid a crash in front of him by key rival Joseba Beloki, who was badly injured.

"I feel like I have dodged a lot of bullets," said Armstrong. "This Tour took a lot out of me."

"In many ways it felt like an eerie Tour," he added.

The turning point came last Monday when Armstrong recovered from a crash, caused by a spectator who caught his handlebars with an outstretched bag, and won a mountainous stage in the Pyrenees. From that moment on, the glint returned to his steely blue eyes. *AP*

Roddick, Paradorn set clash

PARADORN REUTERS

INDIANAPOLIS—Andy Roddick underlined his status as a leading contender for next month's US Open by sweeping into the RCA championships final with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Sjeng Schalken on Saturday.

The top seed will meet second seed Paradorn Srichaphan after the Thai fought hard over two hours, 17 minutes to end the fairytale week of unheralded Frenchman Nicolas Thomann in a 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 semifinal win.

Sunday's final will be only the third at Indianapolis to feature the top two seeds since 1988.

Roddick's progress, as he disposed of Dutchman Schalken in one hour, three minutes, was rather more serene than Paradorn's, with his performance highlighting the American's growing maturity.

"I've been improving all week here. I feel pretty good about my game," Roddick told reporters.

Roddick has finally fulfilled his potential this year with semifinal appearances at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, and titles at Queen's Club and St. Poelten.

Linking up with coach Brad Gilbert—Andre Agassi's former mentor—has also helped the big-hitter become more streetwise.

It was evident in his scrap with third seed Schalken at the Indianapolis tennis center, especially when Schalken claimed an early break to lead 2-1. *Reuters*

Focus on Kobe's enigmatic accuser

EAGLE, Colorado—The profile of the young woman emerges as if in silhouette.

Kobe Bryant's accuser remains anonymous, her identity protected as an alleged sexual assault victim, her voice not heard to tell her story. Details of her life, coming from friends and police reports and cast in the half-light of reflected celebrity, create an enigmatic image.

Some see the slender 19-year-old with shoulder-length blond hair and a sweet smile as energetic, upbeat and confident—a peppy cheerleader and spirited singer in school shows.

Others in this Rocky Mountain town of 3,500—where bored teens hang out at the Texaco station, then drive off to party through the night—describe her as a showoff, "a total starve for attention," as one ex-boyfriend put it.

"It doesn't matter if (the attention) was good or bad," Josh Putnam said. "It was always good to her."

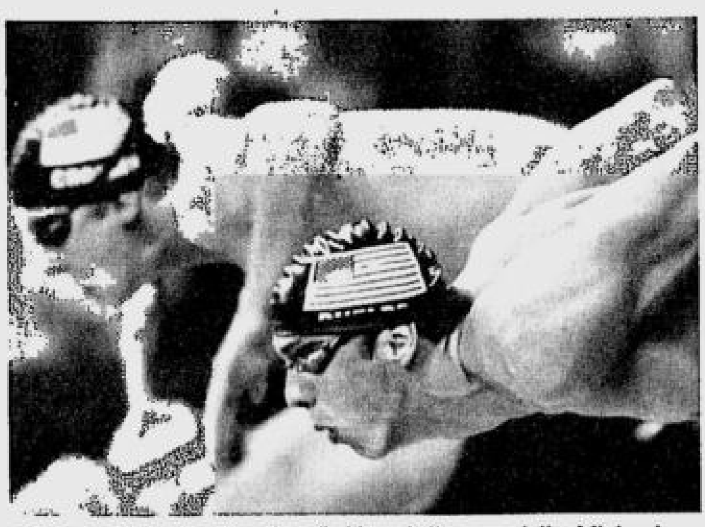
Friends call her honest, trustworthy and strong, "one of the toughest people I know," according to Luke Bray, a 21-year-old construction worker whose wife knows her.

Yet several former friends doubt her allegations against Bryant, saying she is vindictive and emotionally fragile.

Her freshman year at the University of Northern Colorado was interrupted Feb. 25 when she was rushed to a hospital by ambulance. Campus police chief Terry Urista said they received a call late that night regarding a woman in a dormitory room.

"An officer determined she was a danger to herself," Urista said, identifying the woman by name but refusing to characterize the episode as a suicide attempt. "It's classified as a mental health issue," he said. *AP*

Crocker sinks Phelps mark; Popov fastest


GOLD medalist Ian Crocker (left) and silver medalist Michael Phelps dive at the start of the men's 100-m butterfly final. AFP

BARCELONA, Spain—Ian Crocker expected a world record facing Michael Phelps in Saturday's 100-meter butterfly finals of the World Swimming Championship.

Phelps had already broken four in the championships, including the 100 butterfly on Friday. Saturday's race was to be his fifth.

As expected, there was a record.

But it was a stunned Crocker setting it, clocking 50.98 with fellow American Phelps taking silver (51.10)—the two fastest times in history. Andrii Serdinov of Ukraine, who held the world mark for five minutes on Friday before Phelps snatched it, took bronze (51.59).

"I turned around and saw the clock. I kind of thought it was a mistake," said Crocker, a 20-year-old University of Texas swimmer who was America's best 100 butterflyer until Phelps came along.

When Crocker saw the time, he shouted "what," gave a palms-up shrug of disbelief, and then embraced Phelps across the lane ropes.

"A lot of people would say I had full confidence in myself going into the race, but deep down you've got to say: 'Hey, it's Michael Phelps.'"

"I've wanted to go 51 (seconds) for a long time but I guess I've skipped that one and I'll take the 50," he added. "I don't know what to think right now. I'm in shock. I feel like someone's going to wake me up and it's going to be time to swim today."

World record-holder Alexander Popov became the fastest man in the pool by ruling the 50-m freestyle. It was his third gold medal of the championships.

Popov, who won his first two Olympic golds at the 1992 Barcelona Games, finished in 21.92 to beat Briton Mark Foster (22.20) and Pieter van den Hoogenband (22.29) of the Netherlands.

Popov won the 100 freestyle on Thursday and was a member of Russia's winning 400 freestyle relay team.

Crocker said he loves collecting classic '60s and '70s American cars, plays guitar and was "one of those kids who couldn't get out of the guppy group when I started to swim."

He seems to thrive on being underestimated.

"In some ways it's kind of an advantage to be an underdog if you have the drive," he said. "When my American record disappeared last summer, a fire was lit." *AP*

Shorter Thais beat Canadians

MATERA, Italy—Thailand beat Canada Saturday to grab its first ever win in the World Grand Prix women's volleyball tournament.

Playing with a significant height disadvantage in Pool B, the 12th-ranked Thai team put together solid offensive combinations in its final game of this year's tournament to defeat Canada 28-26, 25-18, 20-25, 25-22.

Thailand finished winless last year in its first trip to the World Grand Prix.

In Pool A, Japan topped Cuba in five sets 25-18, 18-25, 20-25, 25-19, 13-15 for its second straight win.

Neither Canada nor Thailand will qualify for the tournament's round robin final, beginning July 28.

Friday night, Japan beat Italy in five sets 23-25, 16-25, 25-21, 26-24, 15-10 for its first win of the tournament. The loss was Italy's third straight. *AP*

DHL to sponsor 88th RP Open

Manila Golf Club most likely venue for Asia's oldest pro event

By Al S. Mendoza

THE 88th STAGING of the Philippine Open golf championship will be bankrolled this year by DHL, the undisputed world leader in moving parcels and cargoes around the globe.

Rod Feliciano, the chair of DHL Philippines, broke the happy news yesterday after meeting with Justin Strachan, the chief operating officer of the Asian PGA Tour, last Saturday in Cebu City.

"DHL has come forward for the love of golf and in the best interest of the Philippine economy," said Feliciano. "Through golf, DHL is in to fast track the country's image insofar as tourism is concerned."

For his part, Briton Charles Brewer, the Philippines' country manager for the Germany-based DHL, said: "I'm sure DHL's sponsorship will have a lasting impact in that it's about time we did this here in the Philippines."

Feliciano, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP), said DHL will put up $150,000 initially as prize money for the RP Open.

He said the event will include Asia's best, among them the top parbusters from Japan and Korea.

LASTING IMPACT: NGAP head Feliciano

"We will have both our top players and Asia's best pitting skills against aspirants from Europe, Australia and America," said Feliciano.

With Feliciano and Strachan during their breakthrough meeting last Saturday in Cebu City were NGAP secretary general Benny Gopez, NGAP executive officer Jake P. Ayson and NGAP vice president Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez.

"With this significant meeting with Mr. Strachan, we can now move on to the more pressing business of putting all the committees in place to ensure the success once more of the RP Open," said Gopez.

The RP Open will most probably be held on Nov. 27-30 as suggested by Strachan, whose main job is to space tournaments in Asia.

"I am happy with this development and we at the Asian PGA are happy to have the Philippine Open again in our calendar the way we did last year," said Strachan, who is married to a scion of the prominent Chiongbian family from Cebu.

Feliciano said the Manila Golf Club inside posh Forbes Park in Makati has the upper hand insofar as the venue of the Open is concerned.

Sonny Vistan, president of the Manila Golf Club, has had positive talks with Feliciano on this score. With Vistan in the meeting was MGC top official Dennis Valdes.

"Now all those negative stories about the RP Open will be put to rest," said Admiral Fernandez, who captained the RP team's best-ever third-place finish in the World Team Amateurs in Malaysia last year. "DHL's entry is the key."

In a telephone conversation, Feliciano had gotten last weekend the assurance of Miñoza to play in the Open "pending the result of the rearrangement of my (Miñoza) schedule in the Japan Tour."

Bernhard Langer, the German hotshot who won the US Masters some years back, will be invited to play in line with a commitment tied to a contract with the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

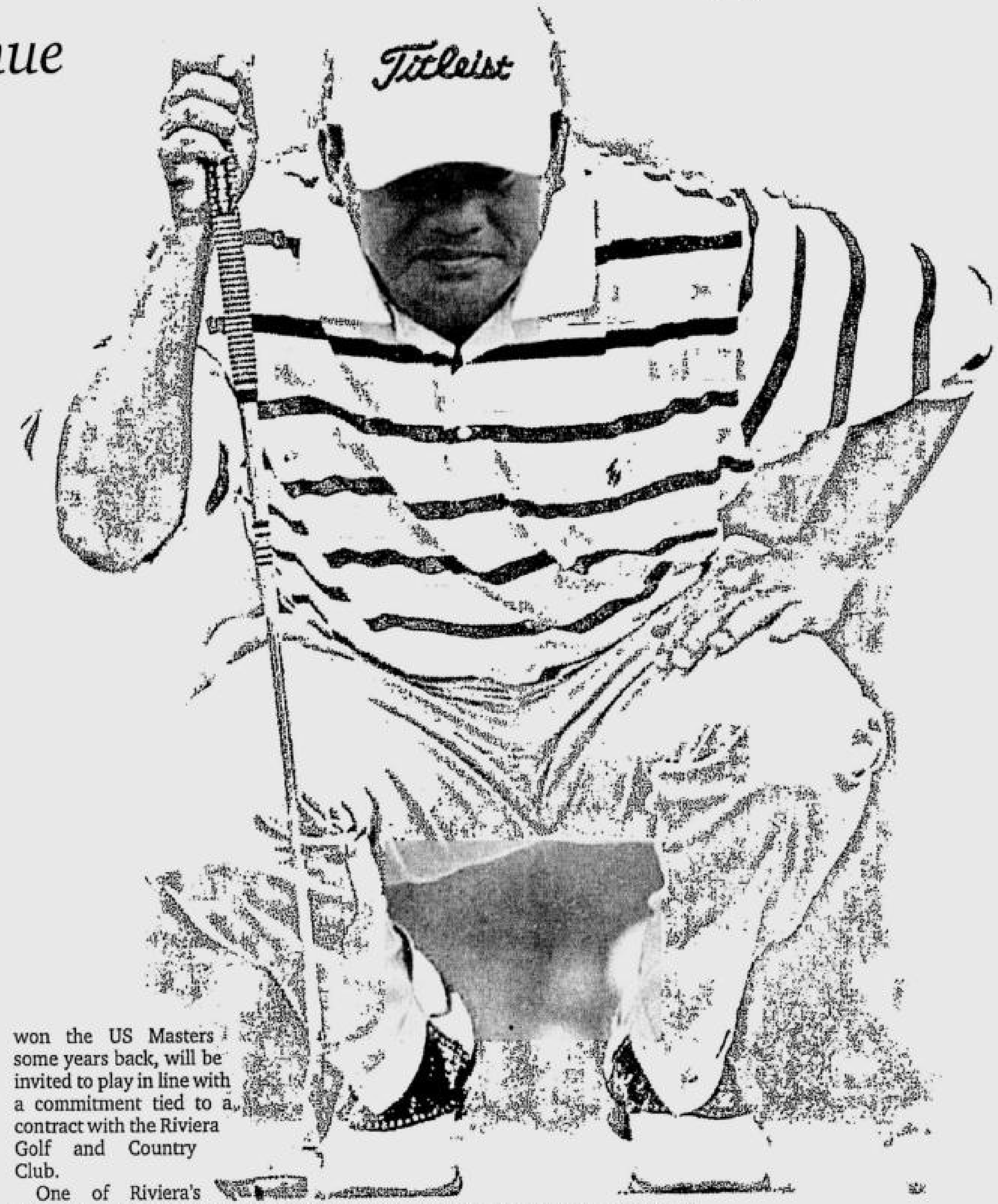
One of Riviera's two 18-hole courses was designed by and named after Langer. (The other was designed by and named after Fred Couples, who won the Johnnie Walker Classic at The Orchard in 1995.)

NGAP top official Danny Pizarro is presently the Riviera president. He said Langer has yet to fulfill a provision in his contract to play at Riviera's Langer course. Pizarro promised to work out Langer's entry into the Open "to coincide with his visit to Riviera."

Philippine-based Canadian Rick Gibson, also married to a Filipina, won the RP Open last year at Wack Wack. He promised to defend his crown this year at the Manila Golf Club.

DHL's sponsorship of the RP Open and the meeting of Feliciano and his fellow top NGAP officials with Strachan ended speculations—sometimes bordering on the nasty—about the fate of this year's RP Open.

POPULAR Canadian pro Rick Gibson promises to defend his RP Open crown.



JAPANESE Tour campaigner Frankie Miñoza is expected to see action in the tournament's 88th version.

Rosales ends up tied for 35th

JENNY Rosales hit 16 greens but couldn't get anywhere because of an uncooperative putter.

Changing her putting style to crosshand offered Rosales no relief as she finished with another one-over-par 73 to wind up in a tie for 35th in the $2.1 million Evian Masters in Evian, France on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Rosales went from a tie for seventh in the first round, then to a share of 24th the next day and to 30th on the third day before plunging to her final position despite hitting an average of 15 greens per round.

J-Ro made 34 putts in the final round compared to 30, 31 and 30 in the first three.

American ace Juli Inkster established a tournament record after closing with a 7-under-par 65 for a six-stroke victory over South Korea's Hee-Won Han.

Inkster's 21-under 267 was two better than Annika Sorenstam's winning mark last year. Sorenstam (69) could only place 17th this time at 281.

Inkster became the first American to win the $2.1 million event. She earned $315,00, the second-biggest prize in women's golf after the US Open.

"I got the chance and today I capitalized," Inkster said. "I played really well, didn't have a bogey, just never let anybody back in."

Rosales started the day with a three-putt bogey and was already two over after the fourth. Back-to-back birdies from the eighth got her back to even par only to fumble again with a missed green bogey on the 11th and yet another three-putt error on the 15th.

A birdie on the 16th saved her some money. She still got a big payoff worth $13,887 (about P750,000) to add to her official winnings of $293,799 on the LPGA Tour.

Fil-Am Dorothy Joy Delasin finished higher at 29th with a closing 70 worth $18,403.

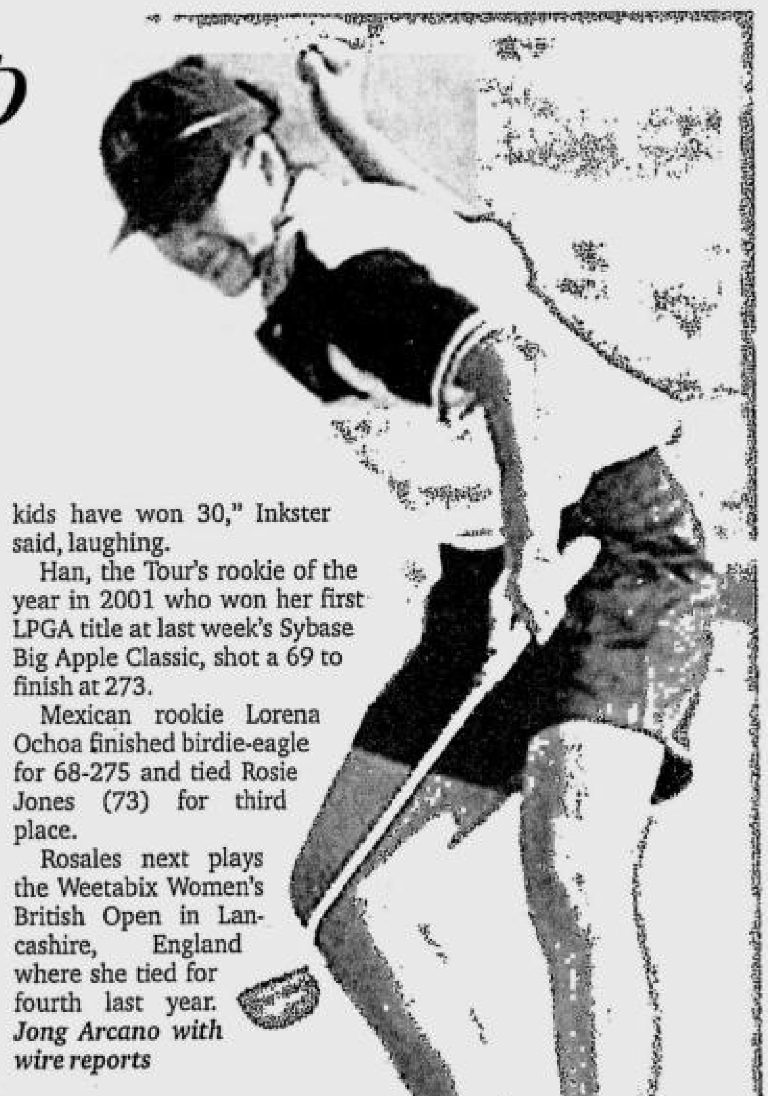
The 43-year-old Inkster won for the second time this season following the LPGA Corning Classic in May. It was her 30th career title on the LPGA Tour.

"We'll see when these young kids have won 30," Inkster said, laughing.

Han, the Tour's rookie of the year in 2001 who won her first LPGA title at last week's Sybase Big Apple Classic, shot a 69 to finish at 273.

Mexican rookie Lorena Ochoa finished birdie-eagle for 68-275 and tied Rosie Jones (73) for third place.

Rosales next plays the Weetabix Women's British Open in Lancashire, England where she tied for fourth last year. *Jong Arcano with wire reports*



ROSALES coaxes a birdie putt in this file photo.

Jacobsen remains one shot ahead in Greater Hartford

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Peter Jacobsen fired a 1-under-par 69 Saturday and retained a one-stroke lead through three rounds at the Greater Hartford Open with a chance to earn his first PGA Tour win in eight years.

The 49-year-old tour veteran protected his second-round lead with aggressive play to outlast a field of younger and longer-hitting players.

"The days of playing for par to protect a lead are over," he said. "It's like the Indy 500. You take a pit stop too long, the whole field goes by you."

Jacobsen, eligible for the Champions Tour next year, won this event in 1984 when the tournament moved from nearby Wethersfield to the TPC at River Highlands. With a victory Sunday, he would become the final winner of the GHO, which will be called the Buick Championship next year.

Jacobsen's 54-hole total of 199 is 11-under for the tournament. His gallery Saturday included Suzy Whaley, the local teaching pro who played the first two rounds of the GHO before missing the cut.

Whaley, the first woman to qualify for a PGA Tour event since Babe Zaharias in 1945, shot 75 and 78 for a score of 13 over.

Jacobsen's production company handled her publicity the last seven months. Fans continued to call out to her and congratulate her on her performance.

Whaley remained gracious and responded with the same huge smile she wore around the course for two days.

One stroke behind Jacobsen is Chris Riley (63) and Willie Wood (68) at 200. Riley's round of 7-under was the lowest of the day. Kenny Perry (67) and Craig Barlow (68) were two strokes back, tied at 201.

Jacobsen and Jay Haas were the second-round leaders, starting the day at 10 under with a one-stroke lead on the field. But both had trouble hitting the greens early and had to scramble to stay even through four holes. They bogeyed the long No. 5 par 3. Haas never recovered and finished with a 5-over-75.

Jacobsen birdied No. 7 to go back to 10-under. But by then he was in a three-way tie with Wood and tour rookie Darron Stiles. *AP*

Magnificent Mason keeps two Toms at bay with 5-under 65

TURNBERRY, Scotland—At 11 under par after standout rounds of 66-67-66, Tom Watson and Tom Kite didn't expect to be three shots off the lead and back in third place at the Senior British Open.

And Jack Nicklaus didn't expect to be as high as ninth after two 67s in a row.

In a tournament of surprises, however, English journeyman Carl Mason—winner of just two tournaments in his career—holds the lead at 14-under going into the final round at Turnberry and almost has a major in his grasp.

Already the halfway leader, he carded a 5-under-65 on Saturday to remain ahead of the big names in a tournament which is now a major on the Champions Tour for players age 50 or over.

"I'm getting used to this pressure thing," said Mason who kept all but one of his tee shots on the fairway and holed two 20-foot birdie putts. "I quite like it. It feels terrible but I quite like it."

D.A. Weibring, who carded a 63 on the opening day, is a stroke behind at 13-under after a 65 while Watson, Kite and Bruce Summerhays are tied for third after rounds of 66.

"I'm in a good position, obviously," Watson said. "Definitely within shouting distance.

"Carl's the man to beat. I played with him on the first two rounds and he certainly played better than I did.

"I'm going to have to turn it on and play my best round of the week tomorrow to catch him. It's going to be a difficult chore. He's playing very, very well. He's not making any mistakes or very few mistakes."

Watson has produced low scores in the past five weeks—65 at the US Open, 66 at the US Seniors, 64 at the Senior Players and 69 at the British Open. The trouble was he couldn't add to them and failed to win.

This time he has compiled three standout scores and still trails the leader by three.

"I have to say that my play this week has been pretty scratchy but I've been making a lot of putts," said Watson, who holed two 30-footers in a row for birdies at seven and eight.

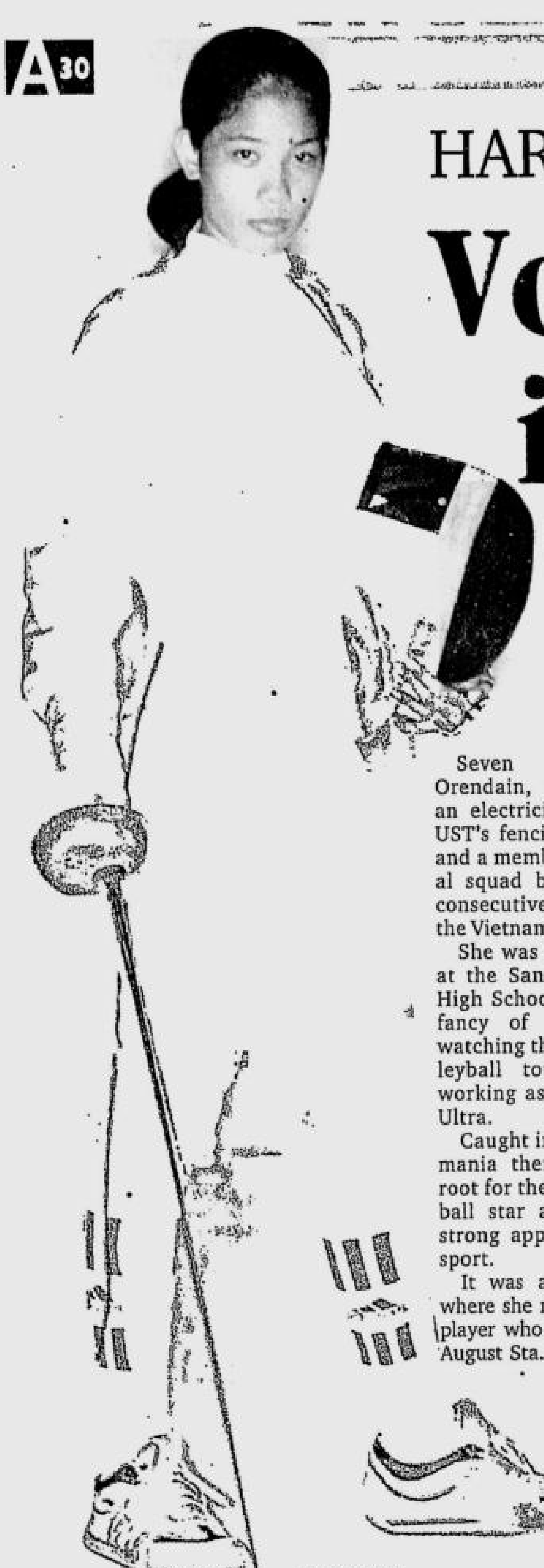
Kite, a second place finisher at the Senior Players two weeks ago after shooting 63 in the final round, would have been closer to Mason had he not fired his tee shot into the left rough at 17, where eight players made eagle on Saturday.

Forced to try and hack the ball out while standing on a bank, the former US Open champion made the green in four at the par 5 hole.

"I was very close to a great round," he said. "We had to wait on the 17th and I just made a poor swing.

"I don't know whether it is going to happen tomorrow but I feel like a win is going to happen very soon."

Weibring, a five-time winner on the PGA Tour and a rookie on the Champions Tour, fired six birdies in his 65 so his 12-under for his last two rounds of golf. *AP*



ORENDAIN

HARLENE ORENDAIN

Volleyball's loss is fencing's gain

By Senen Bravo

WHEN Harlene Orendain arrived in San Juan from Pangasinan in 1996, she hardly knew that sports would be her ticket to success and her height would be the key.

Seven years later, Orendain, the daughter of an electrician, has become UST's fencing team captain and a member of the national squad by topping three consecutive qualifying for the Vietnam SEA Games.

She was in her third year at the San Juan Municipal High School when she took fancy of volleyball after watching the Grand Prix volleyball tournament while working as usherette at the Ultra.

Caught in the Leila Barros mania then, she began to root for the Brazilian volleyball star and developed a strong appreciation for the sport.

It was also at the Ultra, where she met a female Navy player who introduced her to August Sta. Maria, the volleyball head coach of UST.

She doesn't know much about the university back then. "My first time at UST, I was really ovewhelmed," recalls Orendain.

With her 5-foot-11 height and lean frame, Orendain proved to be the missing link Sta. Maria was looking for. in his team.

Orendain immediately saw action with Sta. Maria's wards, starting with the volleyball basics.

She knew playing in the varsity would help her bag a college scholarship, which she got after months of patient training.

"I owe much to coach Sta. Maria," says Orendain, 20, now a a Business Management junior.

But volleyball became just a stepping stone for what would turned out to be the ideal sport for Orendain.

In February 2001, UST fencing coach Bienvenido Orlanes was scouting for reserve players from the volleyball camp since the university allows cross-training for all athletes. Knowing Orendain's potentials, Sta. Maria recommended his prized ward.

Fencing in UST was still in its formative stage then and the women's team was looking for taller members.

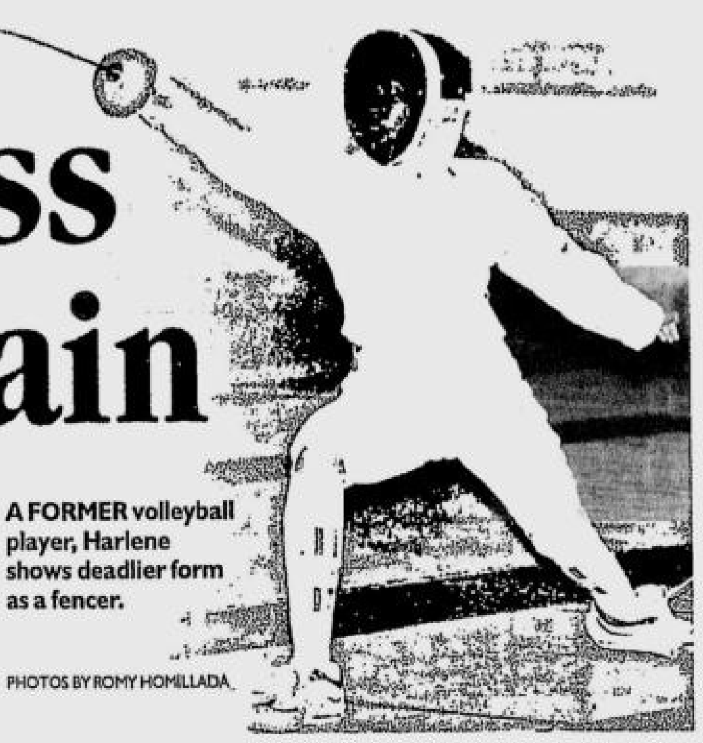
Without hesitation, Orendain shifted her energy to a new sport. Because of her height, coach Orlanes decided she would be best for the epee event.

The first training day on Feb. 24 was marked by a rigorous physical workout that included the leg-straining en garde.

"That day was really too much for me," says Orendain.

But donning the white garb and mask, and flashing her sword inspired her no end.

In epee, every part of the fencer is a valid target whereas in foil and saber there are non-valid targets. Also in foil and saber, the one who attacks first can only be counterattacked if the opponent has parried his attack (right of way).



A FORMER volleyball player, Harlene shows deadlier form as a fencer.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

She debuted in a novice foil competition on March 16, 2001 and placed 16th.

The April 2001 inter-university tilt brought her a silver in epee after reaching the finals.

"I was expecting the gold right away," says Orendain.

She and other UST awardees donned the achievers' jacket given by coach Orlanes.

"Wearing the jacket is an honor," says Orendain.

Then came the February 2002 UAAP where she earned Rookie of the Year honors and copped a silver in both individual and team epee.

After several competitions, she copped the gold in epee individual and added another gold in the team division as UST beat crowd-favorite UP.

Under the guidance of Chinese coach Tong Wei, she and the rest of the national team do physical conditioning, strategy sessions and free fencing from 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Ultra.

The Philippine Amateur Fencing Association also sends the nationals through a monthly tournament to improve their ranking and competitiveness.

They will also gear up for tune-ups in Bangkok next month and in Cuba in October in preparation for the December Vietnam SEA Games.

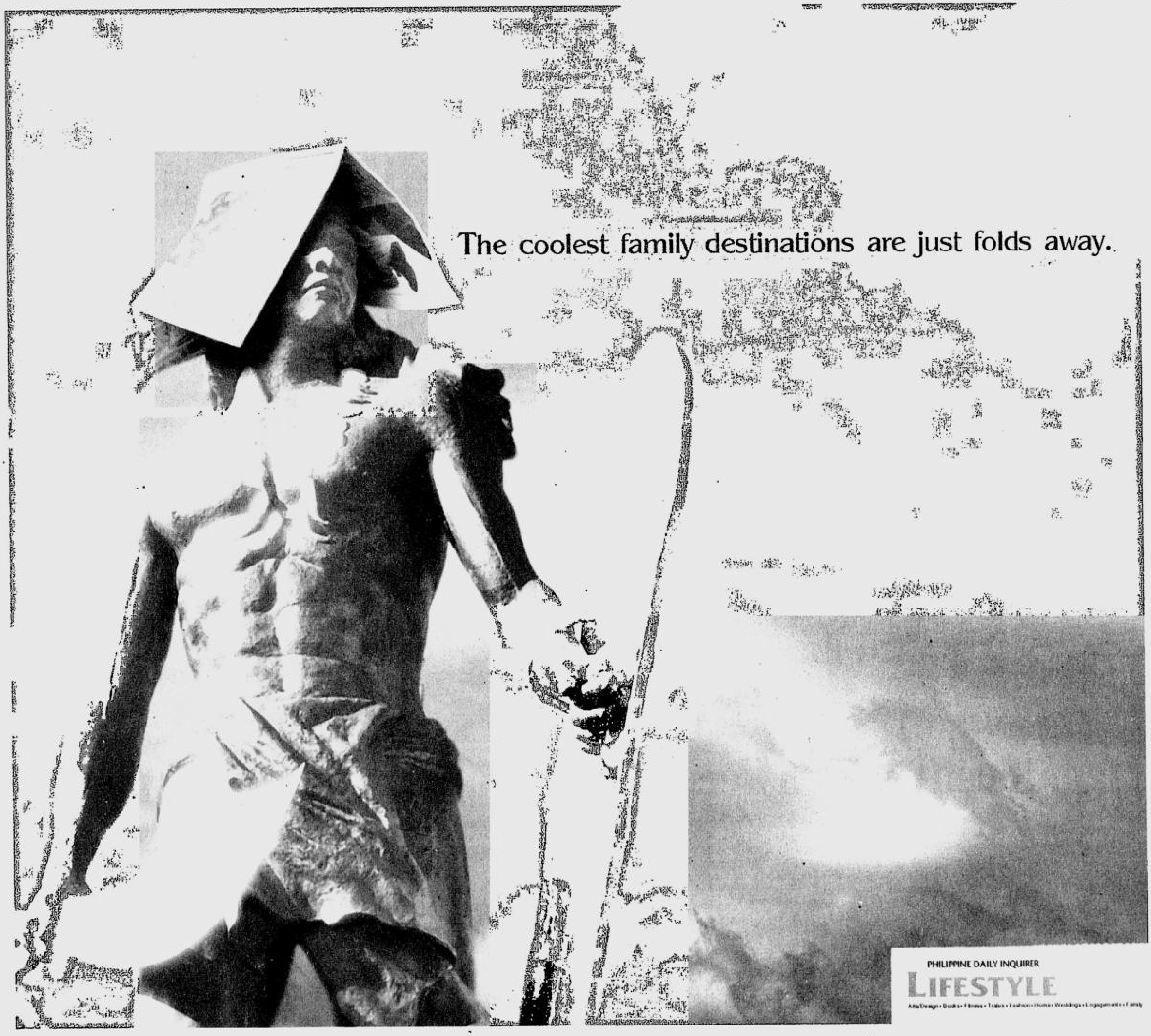
Manila Marathon regional elims postponed

THE MANILA regional elimination leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon was postponed indefinitely yesterday.

Race organizer Rudy Biscocho postponed the races in the 42-k, 10-k, 5-k and kiddies 3-k events as well as the opening of the Olympic Village set up by Milo in Luneta.

"We will reset the Manila leg maybe in August," said Biscocho.

Runners are advised not to lose their race numbers and bar-coded tags because they will still be used. The regional races, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, MyGlobe, Powerbar and Department of Tourism, resume Aug. 3, in Davao.



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Unpatriotic act?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I FELT utterly flat after reading the report that the UAAP and NCAA, the country's premier amateur leagues, did not lend their best players to the SEA Games-bound Philippine team that is playing in the PBA Asian Invitationals. Where is patriotism here? The Asian Invitationals would have been a good training opportunity for these top collegiate players, but the refusal of the UAAP and the NCAA deprived them of that golden chance.

"Sayang," national coach Aric del Rosario was quoted as saying, adding that the BAP (Basketball Association of the Philippines) even wrote the UAAP and NCAA to seek their permission to allow these players to participate in the Asian Invitationals. But the request was turned down, forcing Del Rosario to field a patch-up team that will be playing without the shoo-in cagers in the SEA Games where the Philippines is defending champion. Notably missing from the RP lineup submitted to the PBA are collegiate stars Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo and UE mainstays Paul Artadi and James Yap.

Why did the UAAP and the NCAA refuse to lend their best players to the RP team? Were these players compelled to skip the Invitationals in order to play mainly for their schools? Where is love of country here?

Some months back, the late Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya said: "There are educational institutions which maintain a pool of talented athletes but refuse to allow these players to join the national team." As a result, Abaya, who was also the BAP chair, introduced House Bill 5129 "requiring all educational institutions and commercial establishments to actively cooperate and assist the government in the selection, training and formation of national teams that will compete in all international sports competitions and providing penalties for violation thereof."

Abaya filed HB 5129 following the embarrassing setback of the Philippine team in the 2002 Southeast Asian Basketball Association junior tournament in Kuala Lumpur. The loss also prompted the House committee on youth and sports development chaired by Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella to conduct an investigation into the debacle because public funds were involved.

During the hearing, BAP president Tiny Literal said the Philippines performed badly in the Seaba tournament because the country's best collegiate talents did not join the national team since they were committed to play for their schools. "*Wala naman tayong magagawa dahil walang batas na mag-pupuwersa sa mga* players na palaruin sila sa national team," Literal added in Tagalog.

However, the bill did not prosper, meeting stiff opposition from many sectors, including hundreds of basketball players whose main source of livelihood is playing the sport.

***

DANCESPORT TRIVIA. In December 1922, England hosted the first World Championships for Dance. Organized by M. Camille de Rhynal, the categories contested were the waltz, foxtrot, one-step and tango. The following year, Paul Whiteman and his popular American jazz band played in England for the first time, taking the country by storm.

SPORTSWATCH

Buhain in PSA Forum

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson Eric Buhain makes another PSA Forum appearance as he will be the main guest in tomorrow's session at the Manila Pavilion. The country's preparation for the coming Southest Asian Games is expected to be discussed by Buhain in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors, and Pagcor. Manila Sports Council (Masco) head Ali Atienza will also guest in the 10:30 a.m. session.

Imperial, Carloy advance

NAGA—Christian Imperial outclassed Lexter Quitara, 6-2, 6-2, and Baao town teammate Donaly Carloy ousted Michael Britanico, 6-0, 6-3, to advance in their respective divisions at the start of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop Saturday here at the Nordia Tennis Club. Imperial will meet Kevn Mamawal of Ros Carmeli-QC in the unisex 10-under bracket; while Carloy tangles with Mark Balce of Ateneo.

SLLP races resume

TOPNOTCH thoroughbred racing action returns to the San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) starting tomorrow as Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) unveils a six-day racing schedule at the country's newest and most modern horse racing complex in Carmona, Cavite. The holding of an extra racing day was sought by the MJCI to make up for the recent cancellation of their midweek races (July 16 and 17) due to accidental tripping of the club's power supply.

Capriati breaks jinx

STANFORD, California—Jennifer Capriati reached her first final in four months—she just won't allow herself to make a big deal of it.

"I'm not going to think that this is a final and my big chance and put pressure on myself," she said, laughing. "And not that 'If I can't win this I can't win anything else the rest of my career.'"

Capriati, who hasn't won a title in 18 months, ended a jinx and advanced to her second tour final of the season Saturday, defeating gutsy qualifier Maria Vento-Kabchi 6-4, 6-4 in the first semifinal at the Bank of the West Classic.

The No. 3-seeded Capriati will face second-seeded Kim Clijsters in Sunday's final.

Clijsters defeated unseeded Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-2 in the late semifinal.

Capriati won despite six double faults and 30 unforced errors on an 84-degree Bay area day. She served only one ace and hit 61 percent of her first serves.

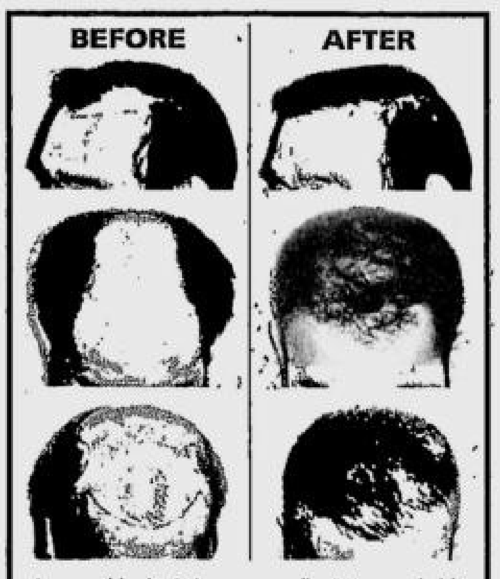
"I didn't play my best tennis but good enough to win," Capriati said. "Hopefully for tomorrow I got out of my mistakes. If I play like I did today, Kim's just too good of a player and she would take advantage of that."

Capriati is 3-1 against Clijsters, with all but one of those meetings going three sets.

Clijsters won the final eight points of the first set following an amazing rally in which Schiavone chased down several short balls and eventually hit a perfect lob that fell just inside the baseline. *AP*

CAPRIATI returns a forehand in her semifinal win over Maria Vento-Kabchi. AP

MEMBERS of Team Samsung-Philippines senior boys baseball selection, headed by manager Randy Dizer (left, back row), are shown with Sang Youl Eom, president of Samsung Electronics, before their departure for Guam.



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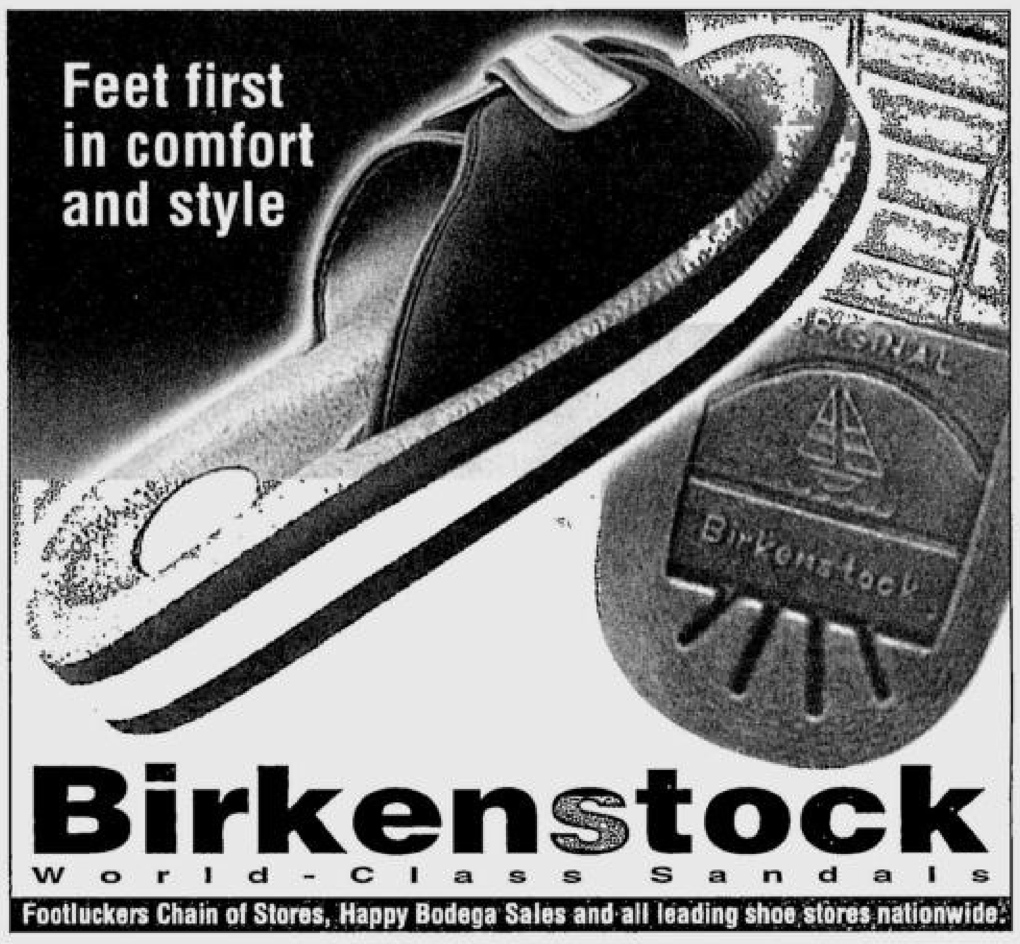

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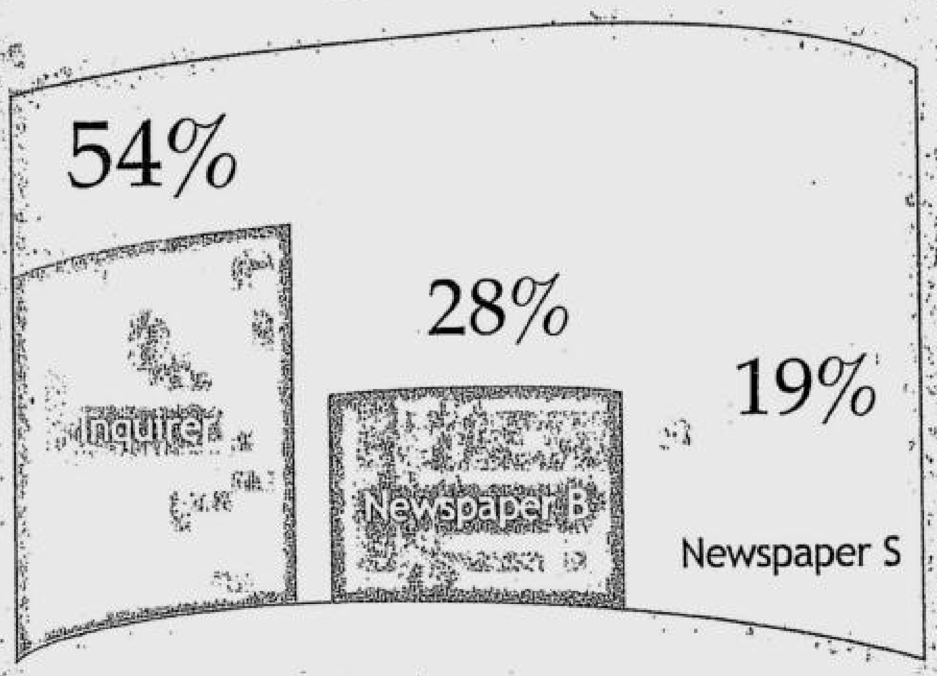

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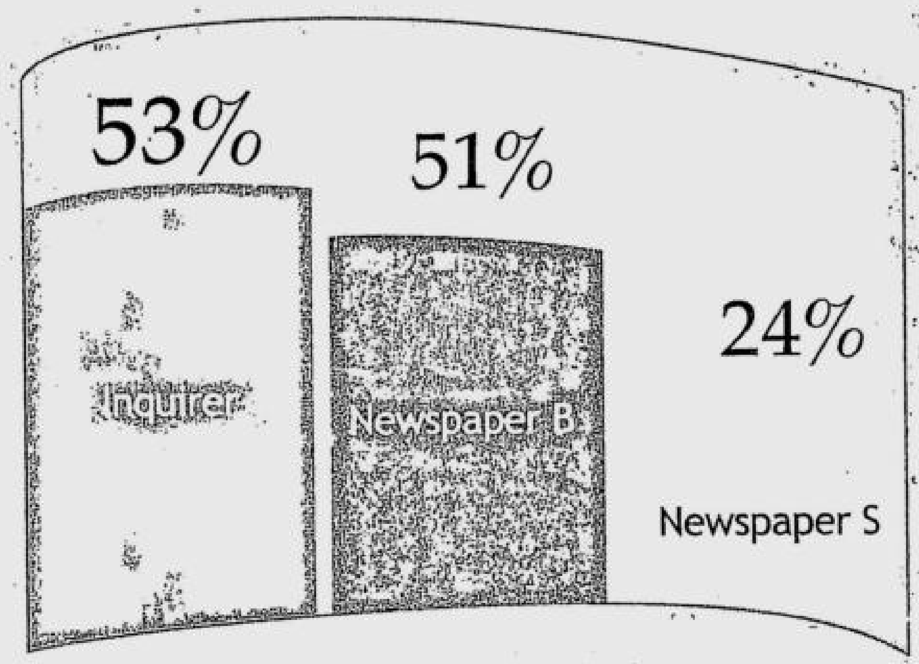

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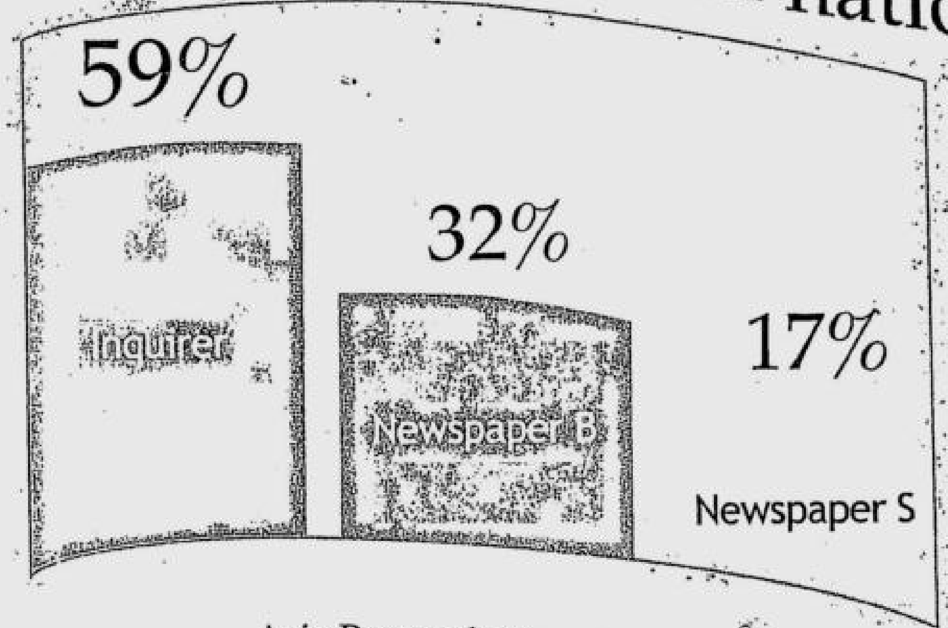

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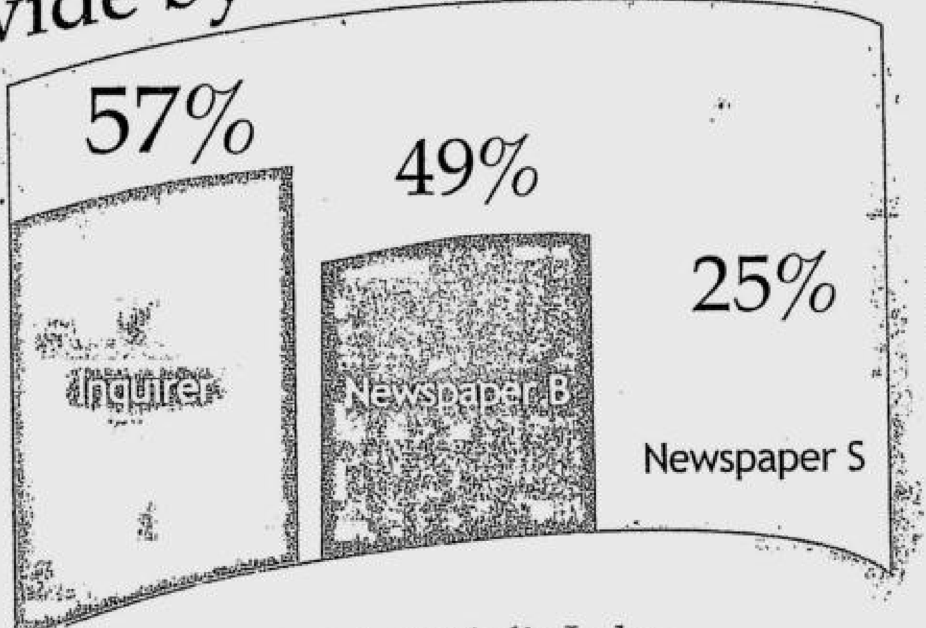

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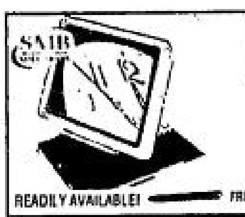

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SC rulings top trade groups' concerns

By Clarissa S. Batino

RECENT court decisions nullifying major contracts like those of Piatco's on the Naia Terminal 3 as well as the continued rise in the cost of electricity topped the concerns of business groups which wanted these issues tackled in today's State of the Nation Address.

"The Supreme Court decisions nullifying the Naia-Piatco and PEA-Amari contracts have created an image problem for the country abroad, particularly on the issue of the sanctity of contracts," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told President Macapagal-Arroyo in a letter.

The concern was raised during the 3rd Philippine Business Roundtable Discussion organized by the administration's economic team. The periodic dialogue with the business community aims to improve communication between the government and the private sector.

More than 15 business groups and associations attended the meeting two weeks ago.

"They said the unbundling of power rates seemed to have increased the actual rates paid by consumers contrary to pronouncements by government that rates will be going down," Camacho added.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez justified the increase in electricity rates, saying that the unbundling was unfortunately implemented at the same time as the rate increase of Manila Electric Co.

Unbundling is a government order requiring all electricity firms, including the state-owned National Power Corp. and Meralco, to detail their billings to customers for transparency. Itemizing the rates should ideally bring the cost of electricity down but this did not happen.

"Unbundling should have happened separately but was unfortunately implemented together with Meralco's rate hike. The move should still bring down rates down the road and would have a more significant impact once power generation is made more competitive by the advent of the wholesale spot market," Perez said.

For now, only those consuming 200 kilowatt-hours and below reportedly benefited from the unbundling.

"Large electricity users must avail themselves of the special program for enhanced electricity demand that offers as much as 72 centavos per kWh in discount," the energy chief said in an interview.

For the Makati Business Club, peace and order, graft and corruption, and illegal drugs remained the critical issues that the Macapagal administration must address.

According to the group's recent survey, 74 percent of respondents still identified peace and order as the government's number one problem followed by graft and corruption for 33 percent of the respondents, and drug trafficking for 20.4 percent of MBC members polled.

Among the groups that attended the dialogue with the economic team early this month were the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Retailers Association, the Chinese-Filipino Business Club, the Management Association of the Philippines, the Bankers' Association of the Philippines, the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Quality and Productivity Movement, and the chambers of commerce of America, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Also present were representatives from the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

Aside from Camacho, also present during the dialogue were Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, Trade Undersecretary Gregory Domingo, and Budget Undersecretary Mario Relampagos.

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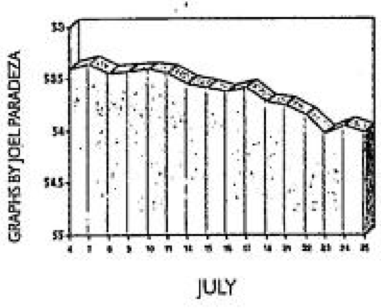

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Japan	Yen	0.007328	0.008410	0.455200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.408069	1.615900	87.457400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111733	0.128225	6.939900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647532	0.743108	40.219200
Canada	Dollar	0.624156	0.716281	38.767300
Singapore	Dollar	0.498503	0.572082	30.962800
Australia	Dollar	0.578147	0.663482	35.909600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.311486	2.652661	143.570000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232375	0.266674	14.433200
Brunei	Dollar	0.497082	0.570451	30.874500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000117	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020802	0.023872	1.292000
UAE	Dirham	0.237266	0.272287	14.737000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.147600	62.111600
Argentina	Peso	0.312324	0.358423	19.398900
Brazil	Real	0.302249	0.346861	18.773200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134521	0.154376	8.355300
India	Rupee	0.018931	0.021725	1.175800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229342	0.263193	14.244800
Mexico	New Peso	0.082713	0.094922	5.137500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510986	0.586407	31.738100
Norway	Kroner	0.120808	0.138639	7.503600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015120	0.017352	0.939100
Korea	Won	0.000739	0.000848	0.045900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108575	0.124601	6.743800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025427	0.029180	1.579300

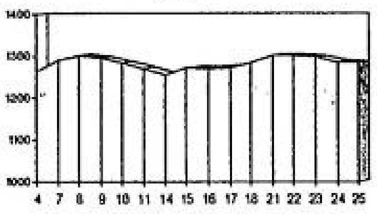
STOCK MARKET

Weak trading seen on coup jitters

LOCAL stocks are seen to falter this week on jitters caused by the siege held by rebel soldiers of the plush Oakwood twin towers in Makati central business district over the weekend, dealers said.

Fears over the coup d' état—reminiscent of that which sidetracked the country's growth momentum in 1989—doused whatever little optimism the market was reserving for positive surprises from the President's State of the Nation Address today.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
JULY



(See stock market report on Page B6)

With the upbeat momentum fizzling out, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index moved lower by 0.09 percent week-on-week to close at 1,283.80 on Friday. During the week, renewed peso volatility and rumors of a coup attempt sent jitters to the market.

"Chart-wise, Friday's close at 1,283.80 highlights the market's inability to sustain itself above the 1,300 levels. This is a sign that prices are losing momentum and the bulls may be in trouble," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"The 1,250 support level must hold to keep the near-term bias calling for a test of the 1,350 intact," he said.

Should the market fail to hold above the 1,250 level, Ravelas said this could call for further losses toward the 1,150-1,200 support range.

After breaching the 1,300 level last week, investors chose to take profits while they await further buying incentives.

"Sideways trading is expected to persist in the coming sessions as the market is taking a pause. Technically, the Phisix is showing signs of further weakness. The main index failed to make a higher top beyond 1,300," said AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan.

He noted that while the market had moved below overbought levels, technical indicators still appeared bearish while short-term trend indicators were deteriorating.

"This may change later as the market will be going into the busiest reporting period of second-quarter earnings in the next two weeks. There is also the last Sona of President Macapagal-Arroyo (scheduled today) that might attract some interest from market players," Vistan said.

As the market's recent rally has been fueled by expectations of strong corporate earnings results for the second quarter, Vistan said actual reports would thus dictate the market's movement over the coming months.

"Favorable results can help keep a floor under share prices and drive the market significantly higher. Overall, investors' appetite for equity investments appears to remain healthy. Most investors seem to be waiting for the index to touch certain levels before returning to accumulate more stocks," he explained.

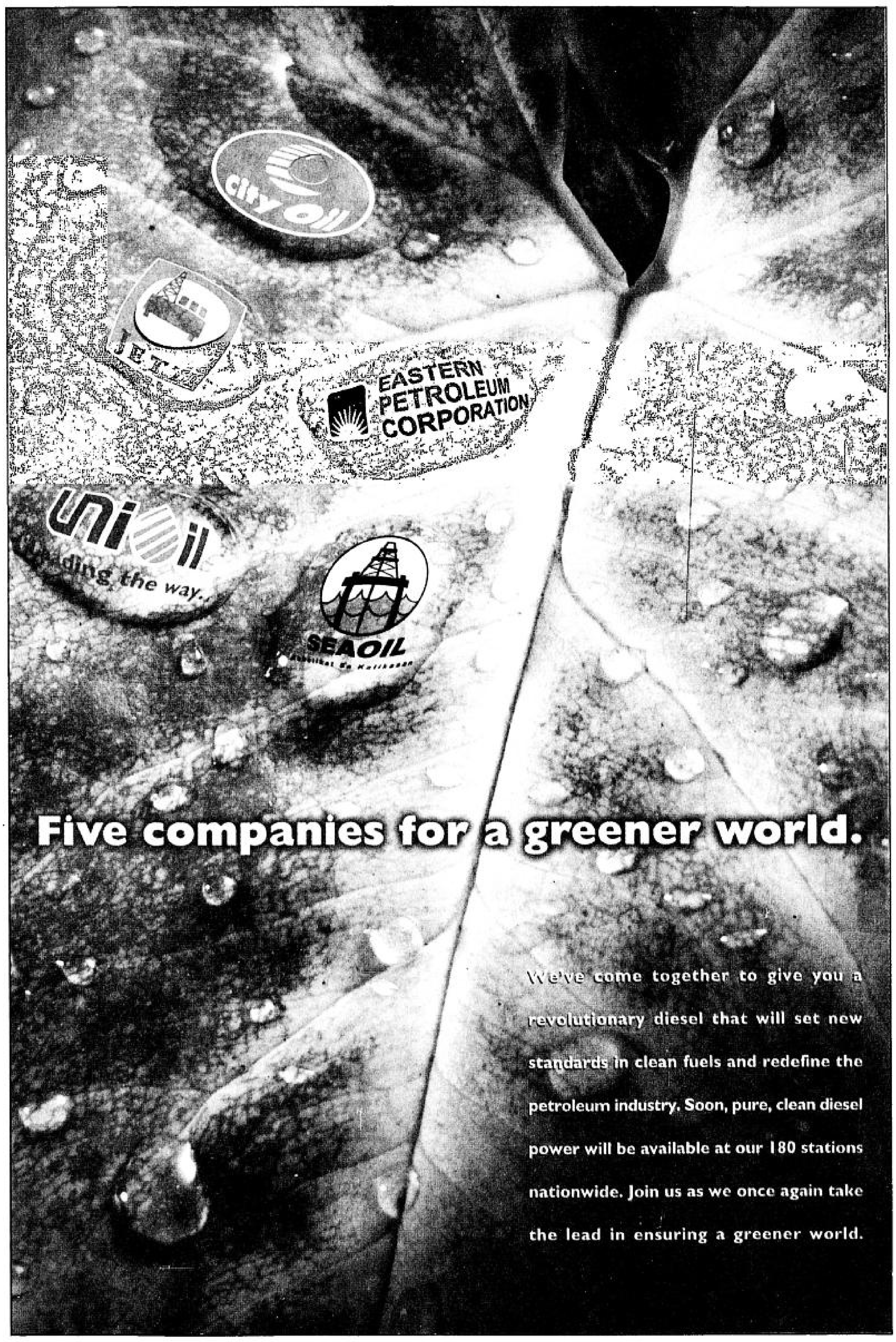
"The seasonal weakness is going to take hold of the market, and if stocks can hold on to most of their gains, the stage will be set for a rally by the end of the year," he said.

Doris C. Dumlao

INTEREST RATES

July 25, 2003-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 25-Jul-03	MART1 24-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2071	6.26
3 Months	6.2161	6.2536
6 Months	6.8067	6.7617
1 Year	7.3483	7.2982
2 Years	8.675	8.68
3 Years	9.4917	9.465
4 Years	9.9233	9.9067
5 Years	10.1286	10.125
7 Years	10.9933	10.9667
10 Years	11.345	11.3383
20 Years	11.95	11.95
25 Years	12.2983	12.3033

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG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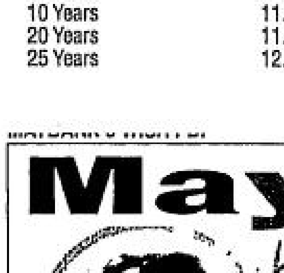

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More surveys on alcohol, cigarette prices planned

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it would conduct more periodic surveys on the retail prices of new brands of cigarettes and alcohol products to ensure that makers and traders of these products were paying the correct taxes.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said that while Revenue Regulation 9-2003 suggested a market survey be made every two years, the BIR was keen on conducting a poll of supermarket prices at shorter intervals of probably six months.

"We will conduct a new survey if there are compelling reasons to do so," said Parayno who declined to elaborate.

The rules allow the BIR commissioner to do a survey—to cover 20 supermarkets for national brands and five major supermarkets for regional brands—regularly and much earlier than two years.

Parayno said this would ensure that prices of cigarettes and alcohol products would always be up to date, and that makers and traders pay the right taxes based on their actual retail prices.

Some BIR officials were concerned that the makers and traders of cigarettes and alcohol products might raise their prices shortly at the end of each survey. This means that the sin products would continue paying taxes based on a lower price bracket until a new survey is made to update.

A BIR source cited the case of Philip Morris Philippines Inc. which re-launched its L&M brand this month at a suggested retail price of P18 per pack. In the BIR survey made early this year, L&M's retail price was pegged at P11.58 per pack.

Instead of paying an excise tax of P8.96 per pack based on its new retail price, L&M would just pay P5.60 per pack and put it at par with the reclassified tax rates of Astro and Memphis, the flagship brands of Philip Morris' estranged partner La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co. Inc.

Philip Morris has struggled since it parted acrimoniously with La Suerte which has manufactured and distributed Philip Morris and Marlboro in the country for half a century. Philip Morris thumbed down La Suerte's demand to get a stake in the proposed venture much bigger than the 20 percent offered by the American Tobacco giant.

The amount of excise taxes levied on sin products is seen as a major factor in the sales of cigarette and alcohol brands. Sales of Astro and Memphis have zoomed 6.809 million packs in its maiden year in 1999 to 357.79 million packs in 2002 largely because it was paying only P1.12 in excise taxes per pack prior to the survey. La Suerte is seeking legal action to stop the BIR's reclassification.

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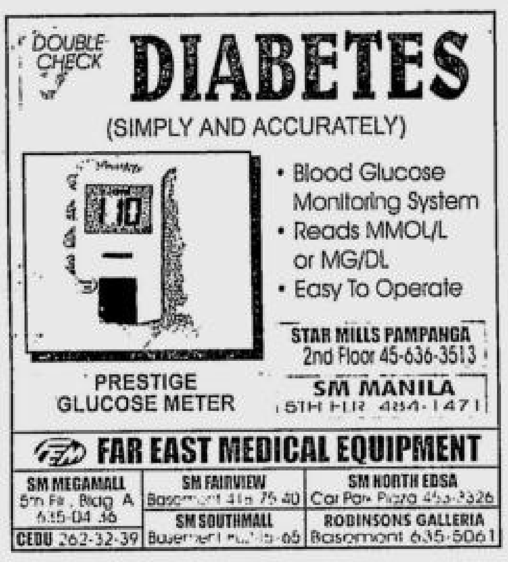
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Information Technology
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Mr. Dennis Manzano
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Taste of the nation

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TODAY in business, a lot of eyes and ears and, hopefully, a lot of minds will tune in to the next exciting episode of Meteor…

Actually, it's the newest version of the State of the Nation Address, the yearly Sona, and today, Gloriaetta is giving us a rundown of what is happening in our country.

Surely she is expected to tell us what this cute administration of hers is trying to do to make us all rich, happy, and safe—or at least for us to feel that way.

One thing is certain, though, and that is, in business, they are more interested in what she does in the next few months. Will she or will she not?

* * *

EVERYBODY knows who is ghostwriting the new Sona for Gloriaetta. It's none other than everybody's favorite speech writer since the Aguinaldo administration.

Of course that's newsman-turned-politician Rep. Teddyboy Locsin. In business, thus, you can hardly feel any excitement about the Sona's writing style.

Really, everybody will look for hints to Gloriaetta's plan for 2004. Gloriaetta is keeping them close to her chest. Nobody in her Cabinet can even know for sure.

Still, in business, they think that the next few months are crucial to Gloriaetta. They will make or break her, if indeed she is entertaining thoughts about 2004.

* * *

THIS cute administration of Gloriaetta has been quite aggressive on two big issues affecting business, namely, peace and order, and the economy.

The business sector certainly loves her for such a focus. Nobody will be surprised if she speaks extensively on those two fronts in her Sona today.

You see, if what happens in the next few months is critical to her plans, those two concerns in business will indicate which way the political wind blows.

The issue on peace and order, for one, is a hot one nowadays. How could that freaking terrorist what's his name have escaped? Don't tell me it was just a lucky break!

* * *

ONE thing going for Gloriaetta is the economic growth. It may be cold statistics, but it makes good headlines, which in turn peps up the business sector.

At an annual rate of 4.5 percent, the growth may be lower than those in other countries in the region, but it is definitely higher than what most "analysts" expected.

To a certain extent, Gloriaetta's strategy must be working. She got away from all that macroeconomic BS, and she went for a hands-on approach to production.

"Micro," in other words, which is the term she used, is what ails business directly. Most likely we are going to hear a lot about her eight-point micro program in the Sona.

* * *

BUT among the biggest concerns in business is the growing budget deficit, if you believe all the screaming headlines about it.

Of course the problem can turn off some investors. Still, it is not the only factor in investment decisions. Look, the stock market is moving, supported by foreign money.

Business is watching out for the budget deficit, not only because they don't want to pay more taxes, but also because it can force up interest rates.

Really, I do not know anybody in business who wants to pay more for financing. A lot of people do not want to pay, period.

* * *

ANYWAY, some sectors are blaming this cute administration of Gloriaetta for the growing budget deficit. At more than P200 billion last year, sure, it was huge.

But the deficit has been growing since 1998, or during the time of the man named Band … Wrist Band … jumping every year by about P50 billion.

If it was even Wrist Band's problem then, as it is now Gloriaetta's, perhaps we should look further back to find the cause.

During the time of Kuya Eddie, the problem was glossed over with the massive sale of government assets. It does not happen again similar to a one-night stand.

* * *

NOBODY in business cares to admit it, but their concern over the budget deficit has something to do with taxes.

Every country has only one way to solve such a problem. And that is, more taxes. We must pay more taxes.

In business, it should mean that they should be more honest in paying for their taxes. If some BIR people are corrupt, somebody must be corrupting them.

Usually, that somebody comes from business. Down here, we have no way of cheating on taxes. Up there, they employ tax lawyers, accounts and fixers.

* * *

AND that, ladies and gentlemen, should only bring us to our most pressing problem, none other than the twins graft and corruption.

I can hardly wait for Gloriaetta to give those crooks in the government a taste of the nation's rage. I really think that somebody must go to jail, for once.

This cute administration is checking on the lifestyle of the rich and infamous in the government. This has been long in coming.

I am not sure that BIR and Customs personnel should get the special attention. Gloriaetta may not know it, but certain Cabinet members are putting one over her.

* * *

STOCKS are moving, with the market up by more than 25 percent since the start of the year, because of money from abroad.

In the market, they think that the current run can turn into a bull run, because the thinking among foreign fund managers points to a paradigm shift in the market.

More and more locals, according to the theory, will likely join the market. It said that such a trend happened in other countries in the region which already left us behind.

Top gainers in the region are the markets in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Why? Because the markets in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, or even Malaysia already went through such a phase.

I hope the market in Vietnam does not bypass us this time.

* * *

SOMEBODY whispered to me that this candidate for senator moves around the streets of the metropolis like a crazy psychotic maniac.

In the survey on popularity ratings of potential senatorial candidates, our good candidate ranks somewhere down there at the south pole.

Anyway, the candidate runs around with bodyguards. She and her convoy dare to go against the traffic, with sirens a-blazing and fuel a-wasting.

Such is the kind of example she intends to give to the youth of the land.

RP eyes kosher food mart in US

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT aims to corner a big chuck of the estimated $150-billion kosher market in the United States, as it grooms local food manufacturers to become major exporters of Jewish food products.

Kosher, a Jewish word that literally means "fit" or "proper," describes food that are prepared or packaged in accordance with the dietary laws peculiar to the Jewish laws.

To facilitate the undertaking, the government has tasked the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) to help local food manufacturers establish partnership with kosher-accredited food manufacturers abroad. Citem, the export promotions arm of the Department of Trade and Industry, has also been tapped to issue certification of local food products fit for the kosher market.

"We have to get into this product niche because it's too big to ignore. In the US market alone, demand for kosher food has been increasing by 15 percent yearly," said Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II in a statement.

According to Roxas, the Kosher Certification Program to be handled by Citem can help local food manufacturers develop their products in such a way that would comply with kosher food standards and requirements.

Aside from the United States, other huge markets for kosher food are Israel, France, United Kingdom and Australia. There are currently over 60,000 packaged goods and 150,000 ingredient items under the kosher certification in the global market. About 2,500 new products are introduced to the kosher market annually.

Jewish consumers of kosher food represent 45 percent of the market. The remaining 55 percent consists of Muslims, Seventh Day Adventists, lactose intolerant people, vegetarians and mainstream consumers who patronize kosher food for their strict quality standard.

Gov't loans to SMEs hit P11.8B

THE GOVERNMENT said on Friday that it had already released P11.8 billion worth of loans to the country's micro, small and medium enterprises in the first half of the year under its national lending program.

The SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth (Sulong) program, handled by the Department of Trade and Industry's Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SB Corp.), has already benefited 147,439 enterprises.

This translates to an average of P6,700 for each micro enterprise and P1.2 million for each SME. The Sulong program has also exceeded its target of releasing P10 billion to SMEs for the first six months.

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, the Sulong program is part of the government's national SME development agenda, which also includes training and human resource development, market and product development, technology intervention, financing and advocacy.

"This should serve as a testament to the seriousness of the government's commitment to help enterprises move on to higher levels of business undertakings," said Roxas in a statement.

Participants in the Sulong program are Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, SB Corp., Quedancor, Philexim and the National Livelihood Support Fund.

Michelle V. Remo

Roco rooters

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LEST the Roco fans club within the INQUIRER think that this column prints only negative stuff about their presidential aspirant, let us start by saying we voted for the honorary woman in 1998.

Having said that, bet you did not know that a well-known Erap supporter is also a secret PR adviser of Roco?

The Erap friend, who said he/she has been working for Roco since the latter's education department days, has asked us not to disclose his/her identity and ties with Roco but since he/she had already appeared in a talk show on behalf of his/her Bicolano principal, we frankly are puzzled by his/her request.

Within Malacañang, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz, and ex-PMS Secretary Victoria Garchitorena, who has returned to the Ayala fold, lead the charter members of Roco for 2004 movement.

Cruz stood as godfather to a son of Lorna Kapunan, Roco's law partner. In addition, Cruz's wife, Charito Protacio, is a UP Law classmate and best friend of Roco law partner Barbara Anne Migallos.

Because Roco is a product of San Beda law school and his law partners are graduates of the University of the Philippines, the bulk of the Lawyers 4 Roco members have naturally been drawn from the two law schools.

Interestingly, the core group of the L4R is made up of Sigma Rhoans, who are either former or present associates of Villaraza and Angangco, the personal lawyers of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Mike Arroyo.

What is not generally known is that managing partner F. Arthur Villaraza, who is a Sigma Rhoan and a UP Law alumnus, is also a product of the San Beda grade and high schools. He was even a member of the San Beda swimming team some 60-80 pounds ago.

Is it any coincidence then that PR executive Toni Villaraza-Gregory, a sister of Villaraza's, is also a key member of the Women for Roco?

It is also because of his San Beda education that the late Malaya columnist Rod Eco Dula, despite his staunch advocacy for San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. just like Villaraza, also every now and then rooted for Roco.

It also helped that Dula was from Bicol.

The Bicol/UP connection is apparently the ties that bind Imelda Nicolas, a convenor of the Kilusan 1230 (a movement of Edsa II forces helping GMA stand by her decision not to run in 2004, so-called because the President announced her decision on Dec. 30) with the pro-Roco forces.

Nicolas happens to be a sister of New York-based millionaire, UP Law graduate Loida Nicolas-Lewis, who recently set up a school in Bicol, among other Philippine ventures.

Within the corporate world, even the lampposts know that the Ayalas, the Sorianos and the Makati Business Club would rather see Roco in Malacañang than any other declared candidate in 2004.

Exit wounds

IT looks like conditions within the boardroom of Asian Hospital have not yet stabilized.

On Thursday, Marian Diaz, an executive assistant of the founding CEO, was fired on the spot by the new expatriate president, ordered to pack her personal belongings under the watchful eyes of three other executives, and was escorted out of the building by armed guards.

The firing came amid an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission allowing minority shareholders to inspect the corporate books of the medical center this morning.

The Thursday firing came after hospital CEO Ramon Abejuela earlier this year took an early retirement package.

The good news is that there are at least three foreign groups that have expressed strong interest in pumping capital into the cash-starved, world-class facility, this we got from Asian Hospital chair Vicente Ayllon himself.

Ayllon said he was trying to work out an amicable settlement between medical director Jorge Garcia and ousted chair Evelyn Singson so that the hospital can move forward.

Welcome to the club

STARTING next week, former Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito will write a weekly column in the INQUIRER's Business section.

Habito, who served in the Ramos Cabinet, now heads the Ateneo de Manila University economic research department, in addition to being a director of Metrobank.

Heard through the grapevine

HE just assumed office last May 1, but new Cemex CEO Jaime Ruiz de Haro, a Spaniard, has already taken a commanding lead of the industry lobby to prevail on Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II to raise tariffs on imported cement.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PNR to get $100-M Korean ODA

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Railways will sign in two months an agreement on a $100-million official development assistance from the Korean Export-Import Bank to fund the rehabilitation of the commuter line running from Caloocan to Calamba, Laguna.

PNR general manager Jose Ma. Sarasola said in an interview that the two-phase project was one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "promises" during last year's State of the Nation Address.

The first phase of the project, which ran from Caloocan to Alabang, would be implemented immediately after the signing of the Korean ODA and was seen to be operational before year's end, he told the INQUIRER.

Under the first phase, all train stations and tracks from Caloocan to Alabang will be rehabilitated and 21 brand new air-conditioned diesel multiple units (DMUs) will be deployed.

Sarasola said the project's first phase was seen to have a ridership of about 160,000 passengers daily, especially after interconnecting with the Edsa Metro Rail

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2 hydro plants eyed in the Visayas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN PNOC Energy Development Corp. is taking extra efforts to help address the current power crisis in the Visayas as it signed a deal with a Korean firm on the building of two hydro power plants in the region.

An industry source said PNOC-EDC had signed a memorandum of agreement with PL Global Co. Ltd. of South Korea on the possible development of hydro projects with a combined capacity of 61 megawatts.

Being considered are a 32-MW facility in Bugasong town in Antique and a 29-MW plant in Madalag town in Aklan.

The official said this was in addition to a total of 60 MW of geothermal power from two projects in the pipeline.

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2 HYDRO/B6

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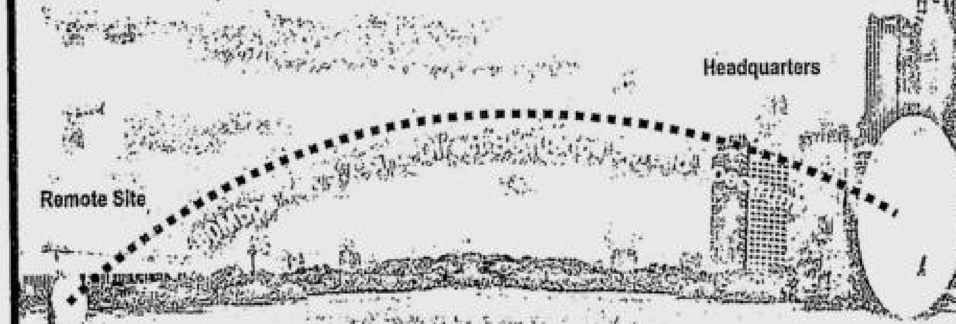

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Bills restricting beef imports from India opposed

By Christine A. Gaylican

MEAT processing companies led by San Miguel Foods Corp. and RFM-Swift Foods Corp. have urged members of the Lower House and the Senate to junk measures seeking to impose a ban on the importation of manufacturing grade carabeef from India.

San Miguel Foods and RFM, who are members of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi), have warned that if the House and Senate bills were approved, prices of corned beef, hot dogs, meat loaf and low-cost hamburgers would increase.

Pampi is composed of 38 member-companies engaged in meat processing include Jollibee Foods Corp., San Miguel Foods Corp., McGeorge Foods Corp. (local franchisee of McDonald's fastfood), Pacific Meat Company (producers of Argentina food products) and RFM Foods Corp.

House Bill 767 pushed by Rep. Cynthia Villar was recently passed in an executive session of of the Lower House and a similar bill, filed by Sen. Manuel Villar, is now pending in the Senate.

House Bill 767 is a rehash of earlier bills filed by the Villars such as Senate Bill Nos. 1004 and House Bill Nos. 3667, which aimed to limit meat importation only from countries declared by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) free from the foot-and-mouth disease.

This will, however, limit the country's sources of imported meat products to 54 countries that include Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Germany, Denmark and United States, frozen meat products are more expensive.

Pampi executive director Francisco Buencamino said in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. that HB 767 has been passed in the executive session ignoring all the discussions the committee had with the Department of Agriculture and other groups that opposed the bill.

"It appears that the focus was placed on the fear of FMD infecting the Philippines. We have been importing carabeef from India since 1995. And there has been no incidence of FMD outbreaks traced to India," said Buencamino.

The National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) and the Bureau of Animal Industry have recommended a status quo in the current control methods and system for imported meat, as they have proven effective.

The Philippines imports about 70, 000 to 100, 000 metric tons of manufacturing grade beef yearly for meat processing. Local meat manufacturers claimed that the local cattle and livestock industry could not meet the domestic demand.

Buencamino added that the Senate and House measures, if approved, could weaken the P45-billion meat canning industry in view of the resulting increases in their production costs.

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QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's picture graces the 2002 financial report of the SSS. This is the first time in memory that the picture of the President of the Philippines opens the SSS annual report. She is all smiles, of course, and so are SSS chair Bernardino Abes, CEO Corazon de la Paz and the seven other commissioners.

But, for the 24.3 million members there is little to smile about the report. In fact, there is a lot to cry over. Please read on, fellow members, and weep.

For the second straight year, total assets—what the system owns—dropped, this time by P507 million. It is true this is a small change compared to the P17 billion drop in 2001. But then, this is because the so-called "unrealized losses," or "paper losses," continue to be carried in the books. For example, the investment in the merger of PCI and Equitable banks is still booked at the acquisition cost of P14.1 billion. But this investment has lost about 60 percent in market value, or an unrealized loss of about P8.5 billion. There is a raft of other stock investments with actual market values below acquisition cost.

Lurking just around the corner are other assets of dubious value. Take the members' loans (tuition, calamity, and salary). This lending program started around 1963, during Abes' first term as chair—what he calls his first watch. In 2002, during Abes' second watch, this loan portfolio was a monstrous P29.1 billion, up from P26.4 billion the year before, and still growing. The collection rate is so low, and most of the portfolio is way in arrears, that the interest is no longer reflected as income. Money down the drain.

Then, there is the P37 billion (principal & interest) which National Home Mortgage & Finance Corp. owes on its low-cost housing program. There simply is no way NHMFC can pay this loan without a massive appropriation from Congress, which is not about to happen soon. The SSS is negotiating a restructuring of the loan. But how do you restructure a loan of a bankrupt borrower whose assets consists of poorly constructed low-cost housing units located in out-of-the-way sites?

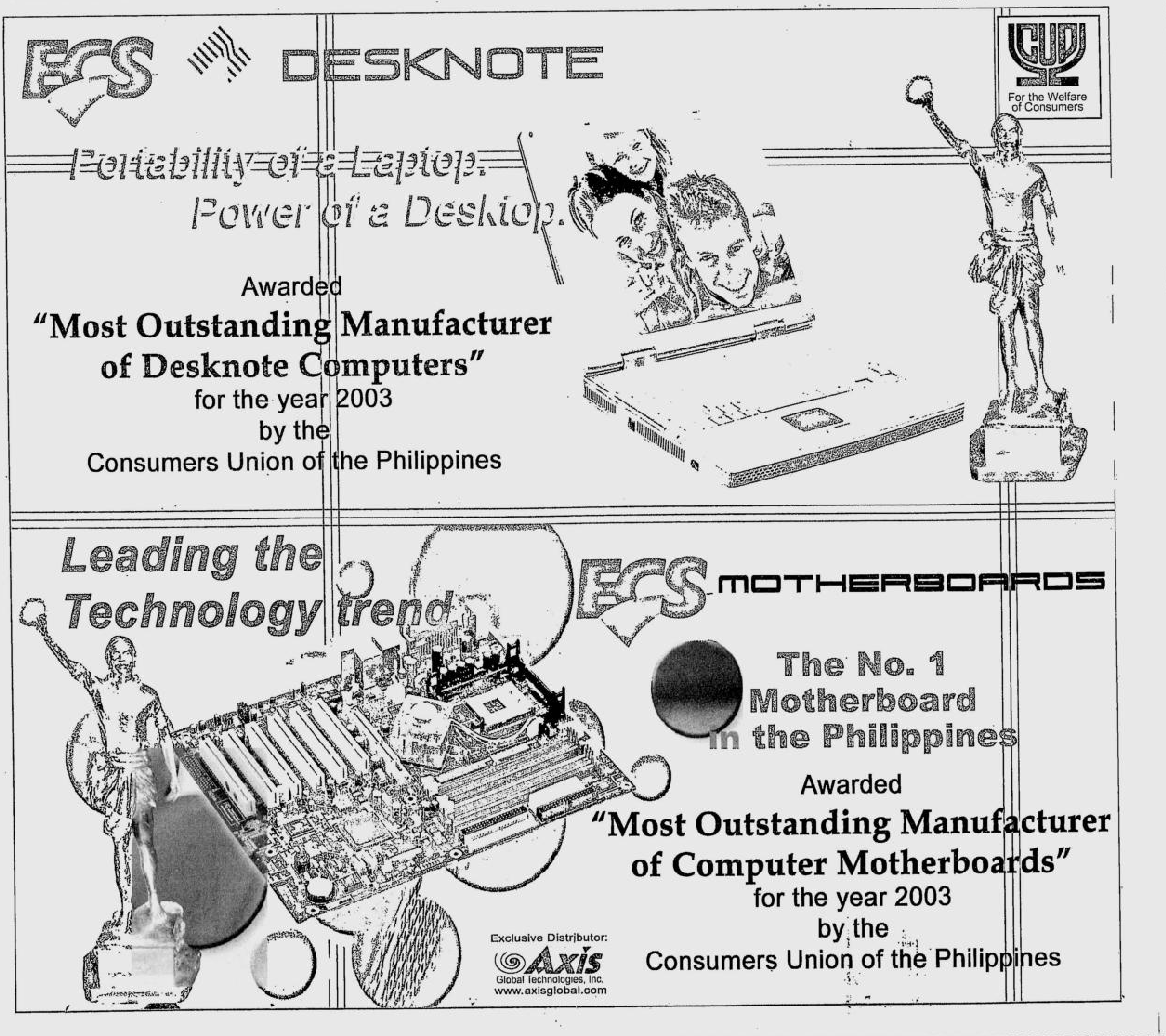
The bottom line is that of the total assets of P162.6 billion, almost one-half is not worth the paper it is written on.

Also for the second straight year, reserves—what the system owes its members—dropped by P58.8 million. This amount is, of course, petty cash compared to the drop of P9.3 billion in 2001. Nonetheless, the members are poorer again at the end of 2002 than in 2001.

Again for the second straight year, investment earnings dropped, from P134.5 million in 2001 to P130.9 million in 2002. These amounts probably include interest earnings on loans that are way in arrears and collection is doubtful. If so, the actual earnings drop should be bigger.

Contributions plus investment income of P34.3 billion did not cover benefits payments plus operating expenses of P45 billion. The shortfall had to be covered by digging into the reserves, hence the drop in reserves. This also

SSS/B10



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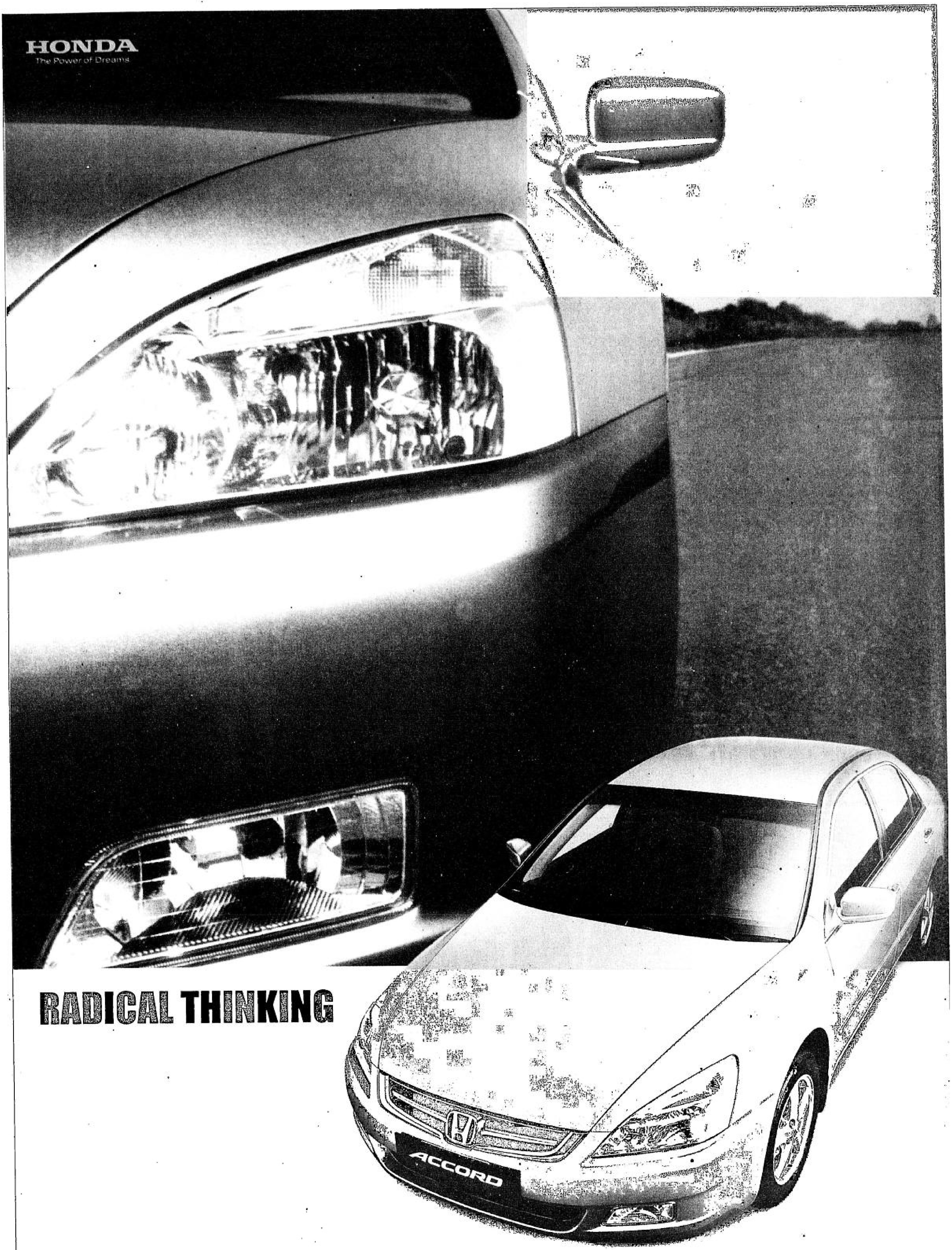

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SEC eases rules on rights offers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved fresh revisions in the rights offering rules of the Philippine Stock Exchange to make it easier for listed companies to tap the equities market for more capital.

At the same time, however, the SEC approved a tighter monitoring mechanism to prevent the trading of unpaid shares in the local bourse, SEC director for market regulation Jose Aquino said in a briefing.

Aquino said the SEC had agreed to amend Sections 6, 7 and 11 of the PSE's rights offering rules covering sections on subscription receivable, installment payment schemes and monitoring of outstanding but partially paid shares.

The SEC allowed the listing of shares from a new rights offering even if there were remaining receivables from a previous offering, provided that the unpaid portion of the previous offer did not exceed 10-percent of total subscription.

"Before, if there are uncollected payments for shares, whether it is 10-percent or less, you cannot make another rights offering," Aquino said. "Now, the companies can make another offering provided the uncollected portion amounts to only 10 percent or less."

The second amendment approved by the SEC was that new rights shares declared by a listed company may be allowed for listing on the PSE provided that at least 25 percent of total subscriptions have been paid. The applicant company must disclose in the offering prospectus the schedule and terms of payment.

The amendment further stated that:

- Payment of the unpaid portion of the subscribed shares has to be received within a reasonable period of time for the completion of the work program, and
- While listing is allowed, actual trading of shares shall only be permitted once the shares are fully paid in accordance with the procedure relating to trading of rights shares.

Aquino added that the SEC strengthened the procedure so that unpaid shares could not be traded on the exchange.

The new provisions now require the issuers to submit a monthly report every 5th trading day of the current month on the number of outstanding partially paid shares based on the previous month-end balances until all the rights shares are fully paid.

The said report shall contain the following information: the total number of outstanding shares; the total number of fully paid shares and its percentage to total outstanding shares; the total number of partially-paid shares and its percentage to total outstanding shares; the total number of shares paid in accordance with the schedule, and the total number of shares that have not been paid in accordance with the schedule.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 25, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.25	19	19	31,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	48	48	311,600
China Banking Corp.	655	655	655	655	1,800
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	34	34	33.5	33.5	27,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	251,500
Prudential Bank	300	300	300	300	1,080
Philippine National Bank	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	18,100
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	41,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	50,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	420,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1545	1550	1545	1550	1,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.32	14,024,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1110	1125	1110	1125	4,960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.75	20.75	20	20.5	39,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	680	680	32,460
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.033	5,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	3,690,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	545	545	535	545	54,880
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	73,000
Manila Electric Co. B	18	18.5	18	18.25	2,021,900
Petron Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.1	2.12	2,667,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	630,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.51	0.54	0.5	0.5	230,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	290,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	17	17	101,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	52.5	53	95,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63	62	63	67,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	89,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.2	8	5.2	8	9,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.38	240,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	5,640,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	184,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.043	10,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.78	0.83	0.78	0.83	120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	4,700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	25,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.75	0.78	15,180,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	800,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.33	36,130,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.5	17.25	16.5	17.25	1,043,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.24	0.24	150,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.145	8,880,000
Ionics Inc.	1.76	1.82	1.74	1.76	852,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	273,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.81	0.79	0.81	20,810,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	3,600,000
Music Corp.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.45	4,970,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	50,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.065	0.09	0.065	0.09	4,200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.08	0.055	0.08	9,700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	1,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,080,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	350,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.53	0.48	0.53	3,390,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.75	20	20.5	266,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	2,678,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	6,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	6,410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	6,965,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.3	0.25	0.27	5,620,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.245	0.225	0.245	5,260,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	545,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	10,083,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	23,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	89,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,400,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	33,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	7,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.039	0.028	0.032	26,900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	800,000

Unionbank reports ₱1.7-B net profit in 1st half

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNION BANK of the Philippines, a medium-sized commercial bank controlled by the Cebu-based Aboitiz family, said its profit in the first half of this year reached a record of P1.71 billion or more than double the P851 million registered in the same period last year.

In a briefing last Friday, Unionbank president Victor Valdepeñas said the bank was able to surpass its original 2003 profit target of P1.7 billion in the first half alone because of gains posted in its treasury business and in its consumer lending and the significant decline in expenses.

He expressed confidence that the bank would be able to post at least P2 billion in earnings for the entire year, a record for the bank and more than 30 percent higher than the 2002 profit of P1.5 billion.

"That doesn't mean we are going to earn only P300 million (in the second half). What that means is it will give us now greater opportunity to put more reserves into the books," he said.

2 hydro plants eyed . . .

From page B3

is also a proponent of the 20-MW geothermal project in Palinpinon, Southen Negros, and the 40-MW project in the Mt. Kanlaon geothermal field in Northern Negros.

On Friday, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez cited the geothermal projects as among those being fast-tracked to meet the shortfall of electricity supply in the region.

In a speech delivered during a public consultation in Cebu last Friday, Perez said the country was again faced with situations similar to those that led to the power crisis of the early 1990s.

He said that Panay was already experiencing daily power interruptions lasting between two and five hours.

Perez added that the Visayas registered the highest growth of electricity demand at 14 percent during the first quarter.

Last month, PNOC-EDC formally secured a P1.4-billion loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to fund the its Palinpinon geothermal expansion project.

The Palinpinon geothermal field is currently host to PNOC-EDC's 192.5-MW power complex, which was commissioned in 1983.

PNR to get $100-M . . .

From page B3

Transit 3 (MRT-3) at the Magallanes station and the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) at the Blumentritt station.

The second phase of the project, which runs from Alabang to Calamba, involved the rehabilitation of tracks and train stations as well as the deployment of 18 brand new DMUs.

This phase will be completed in two years and is expected to give the whole commuter line an average daily ridership of about 300,000 passengers.

After rehabilitation, Sarasola said the line's operations and maintenance would be given to the private sector through a public bidding.

"The PNR together with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Finance will privatize the operations and maintenance of the line. The government has no business operating a heavy rail system," he said.

He said some contractors have already expressed interest in the project, including Daewoo, Hyundai and Hanjin.

Sarasola said the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the National Housing Authority and local government units starting with the Makati City government would be taking care of the relocation of informal dwellers living along the tracks that would be rehabilitated.

Starting Aug. 15, he said the HUDCC, NHA and the LGUs would start relocating all the informal settlers that would be affected by the rehabilitation.

"This is not really a precondition for the approval of the Korean Exim-bank loan. The government just wanted to do this (relocation) because they don't want to throw money away after the whole line has already been rehabilitated," he said.

The Korean ODA is payable over 30 years, includes a 10-year grace period, with a 2.5-percent interest rate.

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Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	-	220,000
Canlubang	500,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	210,000	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	430,000	550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	115,000	125,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	210,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
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Sta. Elena "B"	1,400,000	1,800,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	380,000
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Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/220,000*/250,000**	175,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,500,000	2,150,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	280,000	210,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000/600,000*	432,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	350,000*	95,000/250,000*
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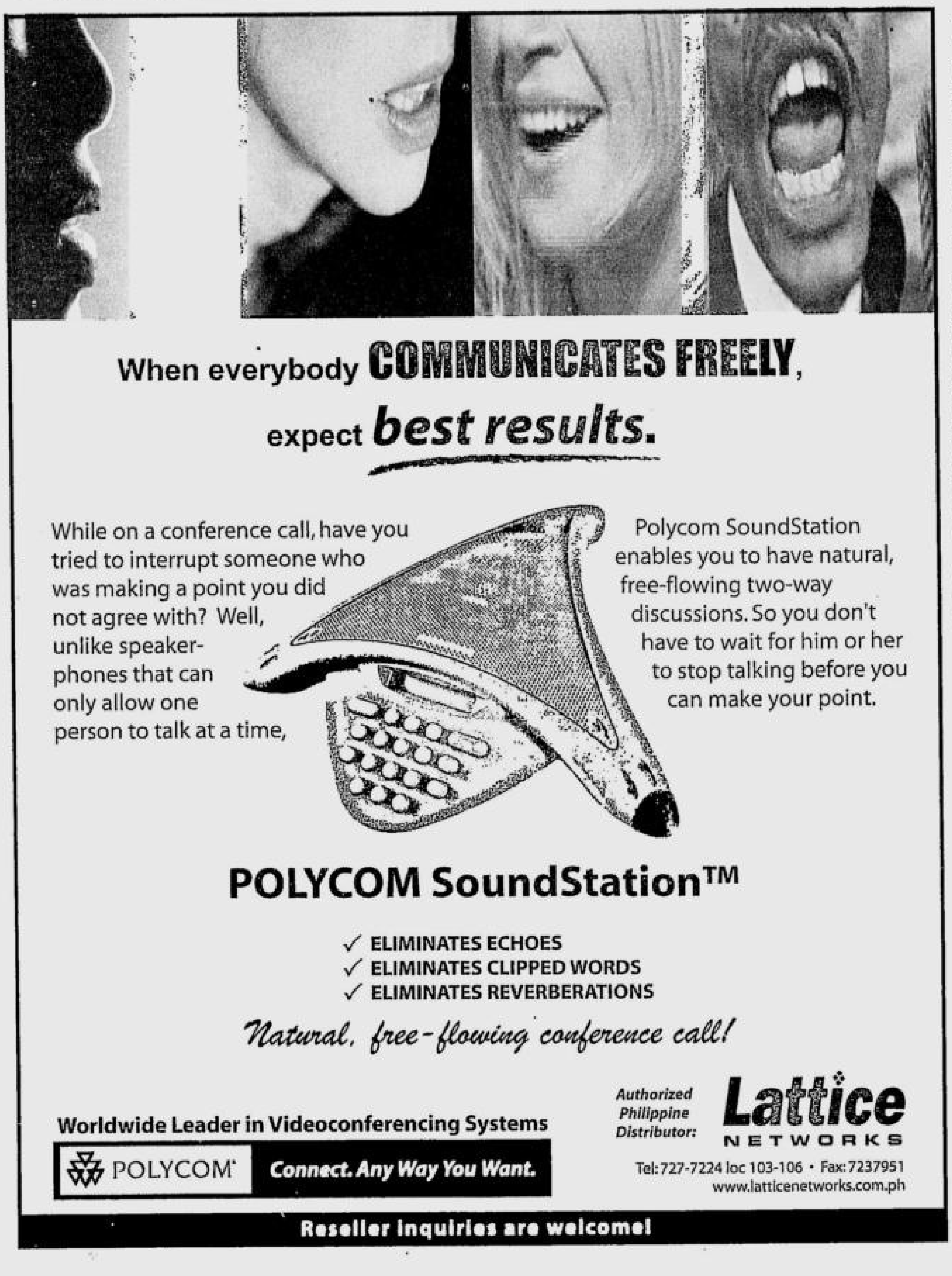

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SEC warns auditors of 'pyramiding' firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has threatened to blacklist external auditors which help legitimize operations of companies involved in "pyramiding" activities.

Justina Callangan, SEC director for corporation finance, said in a briefing that the corporate watchdog would crack down on accounting firms which clear the way for such illegal investment activities.

Callangan said the SEC requires two certification letters—one from the president and another from the external auditor—before granting any license to any financing company.

She said this included a certification that the company was not soliciting investments from more than 19 people so as "to make sure that these financing companies are not doing pyramiding activities."

"The commission asked me to write all these external auditors who gave those certifications that should we find out later that they gave a wrong certification, they will be disqualified from appearing before the SEC. They won't be able to practice before the SEC again," she warned.

Last year, the SEC was besieged with complaints against companies engaged in pyramiding and Ponzi schemes, the most notorious of which were the Multitel, Tibayan and Mateo groups.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the pyramid scheme is essentially a business variation of the familiar "chain letters." It is called a "pyramid" because the promoters are always at the top of the pyramid-shaped flow of money.

Money coming from the later investors flows to the top. Being at the top may result in receiving a lot of money quickly.

Government officials have warned that the scheme was basically deceptive because it created the impression that all participants could make huge profits simply by recruiting additional participants.

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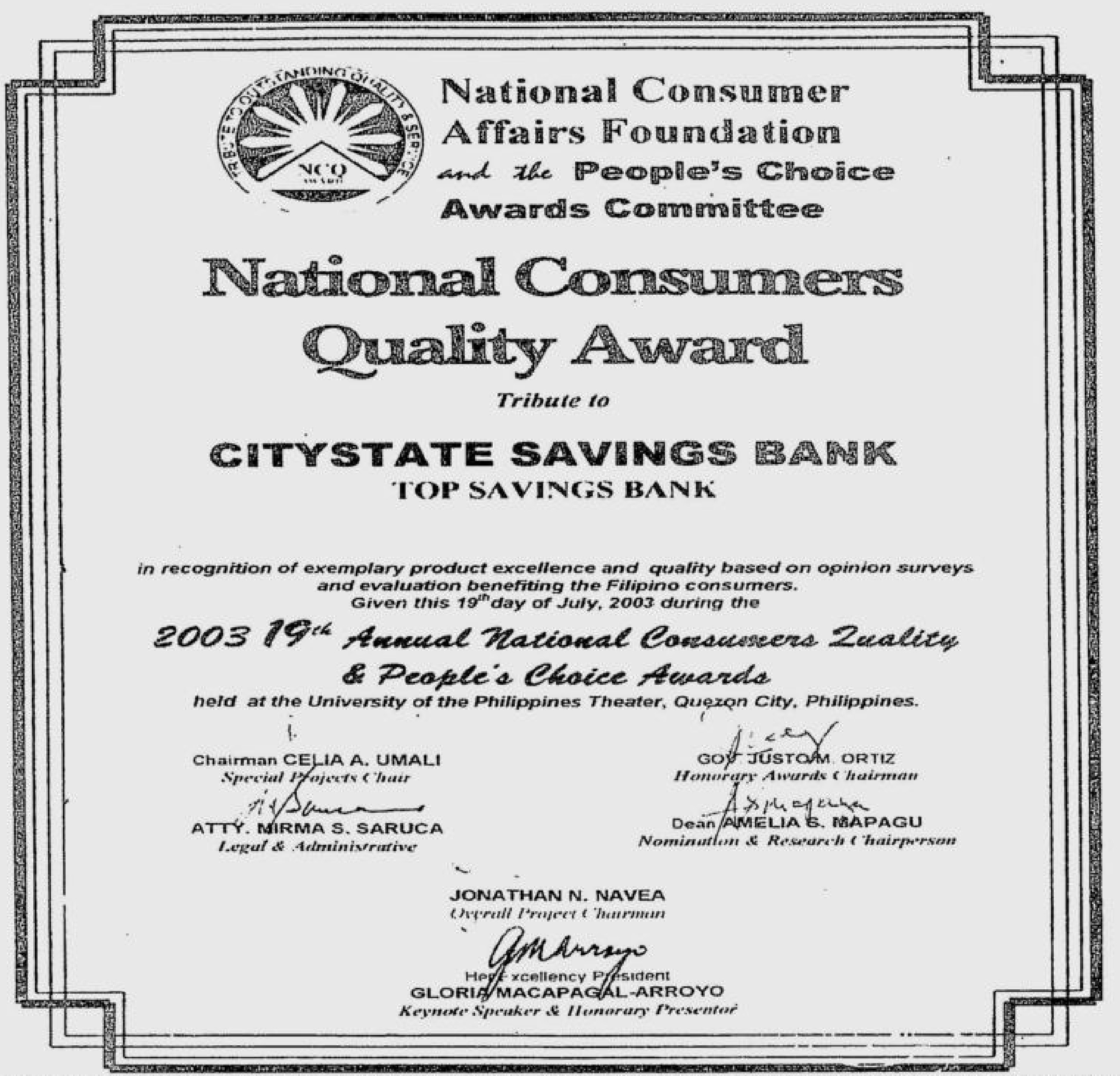

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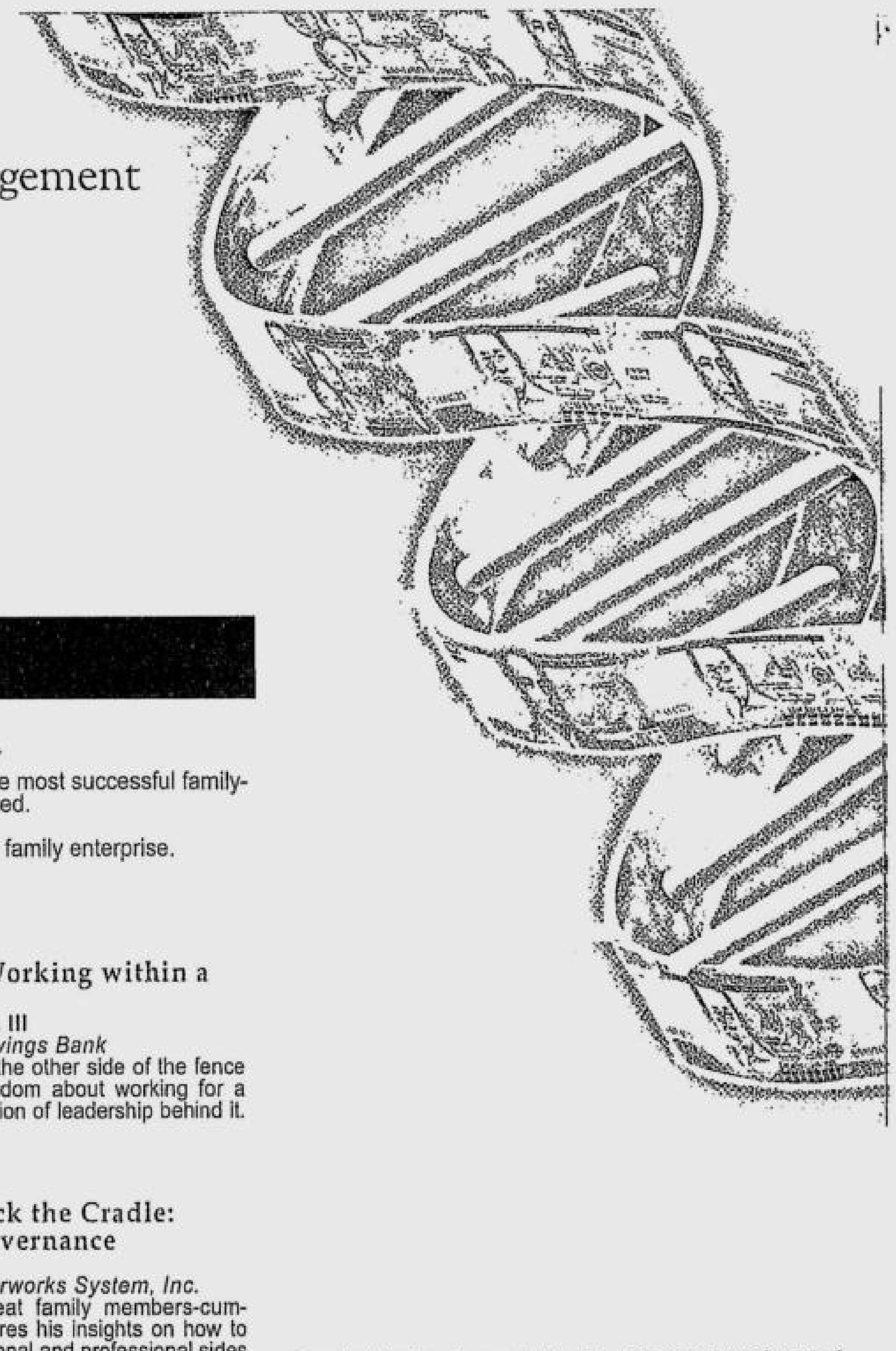

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Ms. Regina Paz L. Lopez
Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.
Watch and be electrified as the secrets to strengthen and improve family relationships are unveiled by a member of the powerful clan presiding over ABS-CBN, and running Meralco.

Mr. Dad: Professionalizing the Family Business
Mr. Martin P. Lorenzo
President and Chief Executive, Pancake House, Inc.
Know where and when to draw the line between being personal and professional. Discover the ideal approach as he unveils the processes entailed in professionalizing a family business,

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Mr. Ricardo H. Mercado
Professorial Lecturer, John Gokongwei School of Management, Ateneo de Manila University
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Mr. Cristino L. Panlilio
President, Balibago Waterworks System, Inc.
Exactly how does one treat family members-cum-business partners? He shares his insights on how to effectively balance the personal and professional sides of running a family business.

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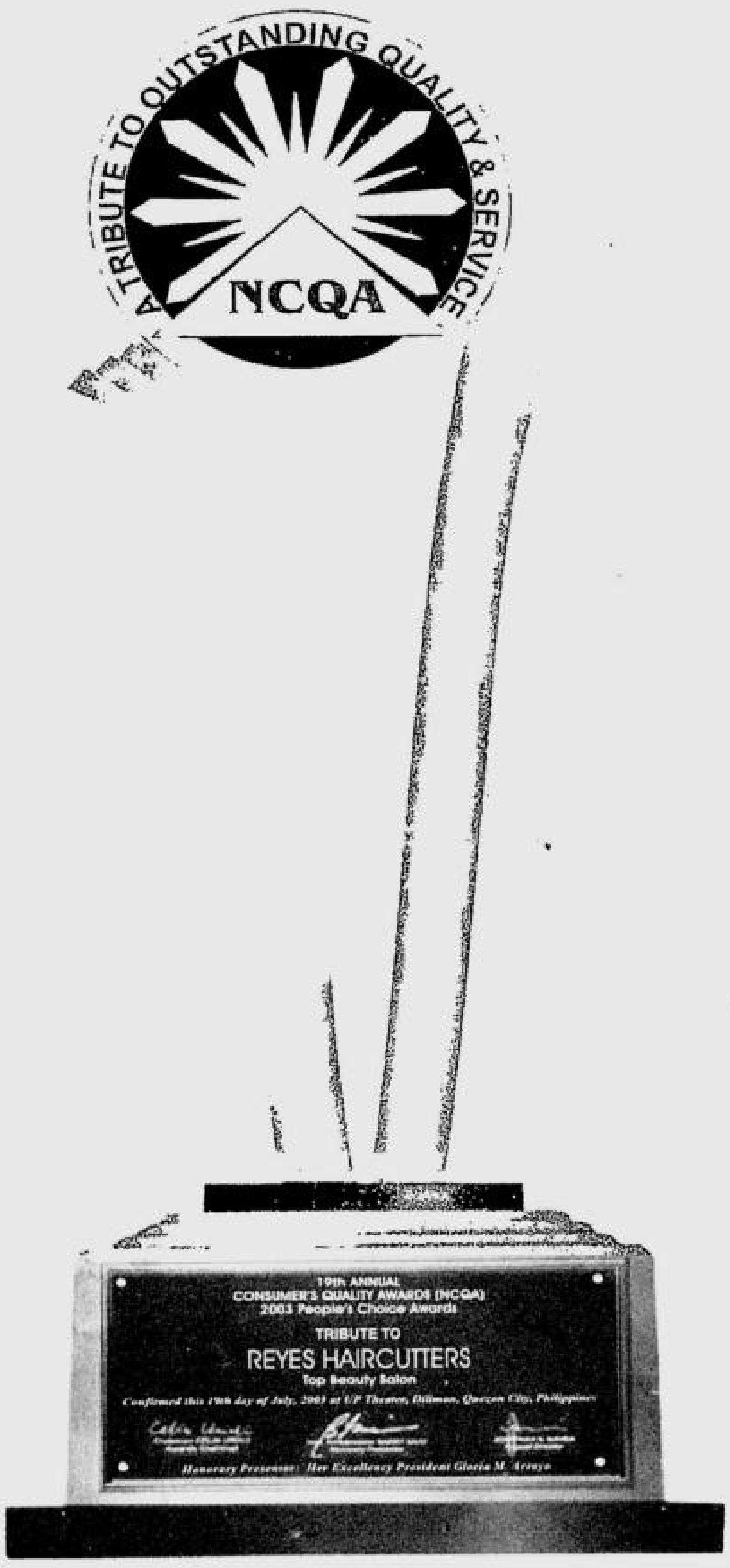
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Philphos sets ₱3.7-B expansion

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE Phosphate Fertilizer Corp. (Philphos) is spending $70 million (P3.7 billion) to nearly double the capacity of its Leyte factory to fill the burgeoning fertilizer demand in China.

Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (Philexim) president Joel Valdez told the INQUIRER that his agency would help Philphos' owner, businessman Jose Ch. Alvarez, to raise $70 million in financing.

Valdez said Philphos was embarking on an expansion program because of China's increasing demand for fertilizer to boost the productivity of its farms and improve its self-reliance in feeding the world's biggest population.

Philphos' 180-hectare complex at the Leyte Industrial Development Estate in Isabel, Leyte, the biggest maker of phosphatic fertilizer in the world, is currently operating at full capacity of a little more than a million metric tons a year, half of which is shipped to Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

The $70-million expansion is expected to bring Philphos' capacity to 2 million metric tons a year with most of the incremental output earmarked for China.

Alvarez acquired the government's 45-percent stake in Philphos in a bidding in 2000 for $60 million. Alvarez has agreed to fork out the same amount to buy his partner's (the Republic of Nauru) 50-percent stake by 2006.

Since his takeover, Alvarez has spent $20 million to modernize Philphos' plant to boost productivity and cut losses.

Philphos is projecting to make its first back-to-back years of profitability this year in the last 30 years. Philphos expects to make P500 million in net profit this year, up from P300 million last year. Philphos posted P600 million in losses during Alvarez's first year as controlling shareholder.

Philphos had been bleeding P2 billion annually for the last 18 years prior to Alvarez's takeover largely because of hefty interest payments on its foreign-denominated loans. The loans have been transferred to the government before Philphos was placed under the hammer.

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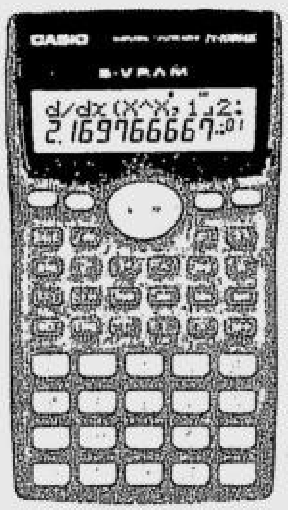

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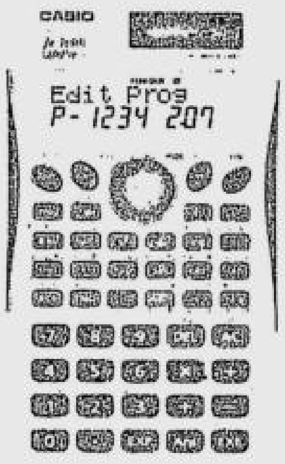

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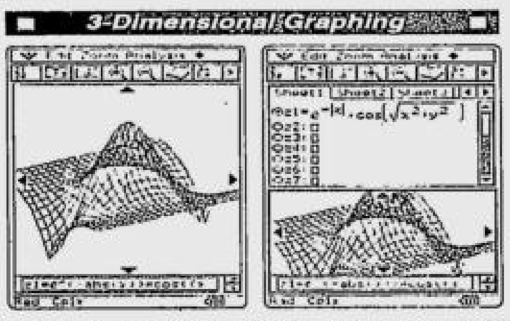

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IMPORTANT ADVISORY

REGARDING ISSUANCE OF STUDENT DRIVER'S PERMIT AND DRIVER'S LICENSE

STUDENT DRIVER'S PERMIT

- A student driver with a current student driver's permit is qualified to secure:
  A non-professional driver's license, if he is at least 17 years old and after an apprenticeship period of 30 days.
  A professional driver's license, if he is at least 18 years old and after an apprenticeship period of 5 months.
- The student driver's permit is valid only for 1 year.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

- The driver's license or temporary driver's license (TDL) must be carried at all times when operating a motor vehicle.
- The temporary driver's license (TDL) is valid only for 60 days unless otherwise extended.
- The driver's license is valid only for 3 years.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **In the National Capital Region (NCR),**
  Only LTO licensing centers accept applications for new driver's licenses.
  LTO district offices accept renewal of driver's licenses and applications for student permits.
- **In other Regions,**
  LTO licensing centers accept applications for new driver's licenses.
  LTO district offices accept applications for new and renewal of driver's licenses and student permits.
- **Not all LTO district offices have license card printers.**
  - LTO district offices and licensing centers with license card printers will issue driver's license cards. (See list.)
    - A driver's license card will be issued within the day only for plain license renewal or no revision in the license data.
    - A temporary driver's license (TDL) will be issued for new license and license renewal with revision in the license data.

  LTO district offices without license card printers will issue a temporary driver's license (TDL).

TIPS

- Renew your driver's license on or two months before your birthdate.
  If you fail to do so, your driver's license will become delinquent.
  A penalty will be charged in addition to the basic licensing fee for renewal of delinquent driver's license.
- To avoid inconvenience, make sure all requirements (e.g. drug test, medical exam, etc.) are complete.
- Deal directly with LTO personnel. Do not deal with fixers.
- For fast processing of driver's license, go to the following LTO One-Stop-Shops:
  - LTO Central Office in East Avenue, Quezon City
    SM City in San Fernando, Pampanga
    More LTO One-Stop-Shops will open soon.

List of LTO District Offices and Licensing Centers with license card printer

National Capital Region (NCR)
Caloocan Licensing Center
Eastern Licensing Center
Makati District Office
Manila South District Office
Marikina District Office
Novaliches District Office
Muntinlupa Extension Office
Pasig District Office
Pilot Licensing Unit
Quezon City District Office
San Juan District Office
Southern Licensing Center
Southern Licensing Ext. Office
Western Licensing Center

Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)
Baguio City District Office

Region I
Dagupan City District Office
Laoag City District Office
San Fernando City District Office

Region III
Bulacan Licensing Center
Pampanga Licensing Center
Tarlac Licensing Center

Region IV
Cabuyao District Office
Lucena City District Office
Palawan District Office
Pila District Office

Region V
Naga City District Office

Region VI
Bacolod City District Office
Iloilo City Licensing Center
Roxas City District Office

Region VII
Cebu City Licensing Center
Dumaguete City District Office
Mandaue City Licensing Center
Tagbilaran City District Office

Region X
Cagayan de Oro Licensing Center

Region XI
Davao City District Office
General Santos City District Office

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a proud sponsor of the upcoming TOYM Awards to be presented by the Philippine Jaycees this coming November. TOYM Awards recognizes exceptional men and women in their respective fields.

Shown after the signing of the sponsorship agreement are: (from left) TOYM chair Boydee Dizon, PJCI national president Allan Ranillo, PDI president and 2002 TOYM awardee Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, PDI corporate relations manager Celine Madamba and PJCI NSEVP Ivan Franche. Nominations are still being accepted. Call 373-7907 or visit www.toym.org for details.

Hot money inflow seen to decline 40% in 2004

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is projecting a 40-percent drop in portfolio investments inflow next year in view of the political uncertainties arising from the forthcoming presidential elections.

From the projected inflow of $2.9 billion, the government is expecting the level of hot money to decline to $1.7 billion next year.

Direct foreign investments are seen to grow slightly to $1.1 billion from this year's estimate of $1 billion, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"It is normal for foreign fund managers to take the sidelines, adopt a wait-and-see attitude during election year. We see less investments in the stock market and a flat direct investments," said a government source.

As of June, the hot money inflow stood at $548.6 million while outflow reached $323.3 million, leading to a net portfolio inflow of $225.3 million, which was higher than $202 million in the same period last year.

Net direct investments as of April registered a deficit of $39 million against $843 million in the same period in 2002.

The BSP said the continued strengthening of dollar remittances from overseas Filipinos was expected to offset the slowdown in investments. Overseas Filipino workers' remittances are expected to hit at least $7.4 billion in 2004, slightly higher than the $7.2 billion projected for this year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, said the improving trend in dollar remittances might push the OFW inflow this year to about $7.9 billion from $7.2 billion in 2002.

As of May, dollar remittances from close to eight million Filipino workers abroad reached $3.29 billion, up 9.77 percent from $2.99 billion a year ago. In May alone, the level of remittances rose 13.44 percent to $750.71 million from $661.74 million in the same period last year.

"The emerging yearend remittance of $7.9 billion does not include the possible increase in the deployment to Iraq for its reconstruction," a source said.

The central bank is counting on dollar inflow from remittances to boost its external reserve and prop up the country's balance-of-payments position. As of June, dollar reserves are down to $15.8 billion and the BOP posted a deficit of $616 million.

Semirara expects 50% increase in coal production

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SEMIRARA Mining Corp., the country's only major coal producer, expects its production to go up by 50 percent this year in view of its drive to expand its market.

Semirara vice president Francisco Aragon Jr. said in an interview that the company was expecting total yield of 1.8 million metric tons by the end of the year, an increase of 600,000 tons from 1.2 MT in 2002.

Aragon said additional customers, including the National Power Corp.'s 600-megawatt Masinloc power plant in Zambales, were fueling the increase in output.

Prior to the expansion plan, Semirara was producing an average of 1.2 million MT from its Panian mine, which has a coal deposit of 70 million MT.

The company also has an 80-million-ton reserve in the untapped Himalian mine, which is also in Semirara Island off Panay.

Semirara's main market is Napocor's two-unit, 600-MW coal plant in Calaca, Batangas, one generating unit of which runs purely on local coal.

The local coal producer has also been supplying portion of the fuel needs of the Toledo power plant in Cebu and of the Goodfound cement plant in Albay.

Gaisano family taking over FFI

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CEBU-BASED Gaisano family is entering the financial services sector with its bid to take over publicly listed Filipino Fund Inc., an investment company managed by the Ayala group's Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The Gaisano family, a retail giant in the Visayas and Mindanao, plans to take over FFI through its property development firm Viscal Development Corp.

Viscal's acquisition of FFI, whose mutual fund assets would be spun off into a separate company, will pave the way for the backdoor listing of the Metro Gaisano chain of stores, stockbrokers said.

Viscal disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had offered to buy 16.1 million common shares of FFI at P5.70 per share, representing 67.51 percent of the BPI unit's 23.85-million outstanding shares in the company.

At the same time, Viscal will make an offer to purchase the shares of minority shareholders of FFI.

The takeover deal with the Gaisano group will amount to only P92 million, but this represents only the shell company, as the hard assets of FFI will continue to be managed by a newly incorporated open-end investment company.

Philippine Index Fund (PIF) was incorporated as part of FFI's quasi-reorganization plan, which allows the unbundling of FFI's assets and lodging of its listed equities and other fixed income assets under the new unit.

SSS: Road . . .

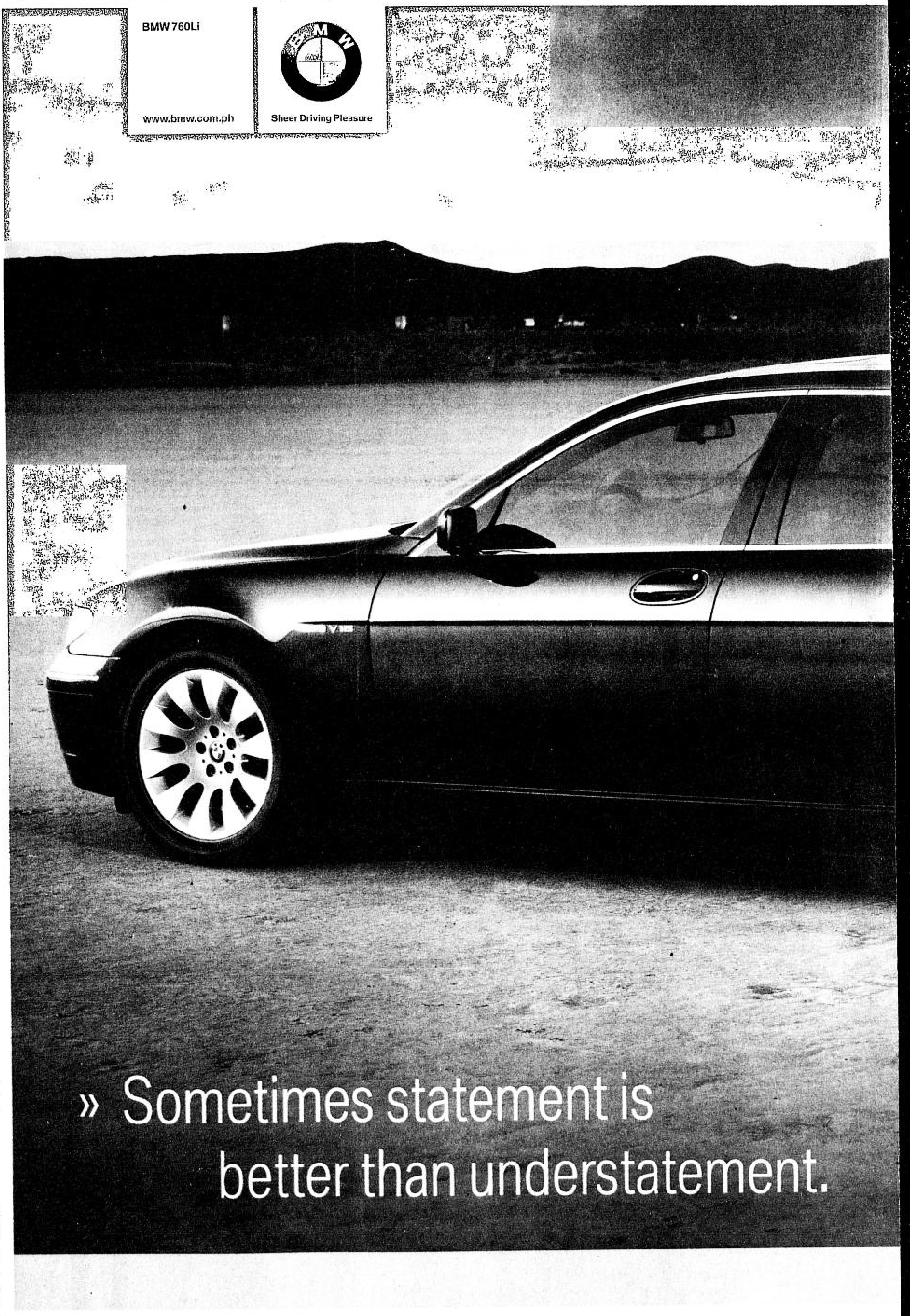
From page B4

means that there were no new investments from contributions. There just was no new money to invest. If this goes on, the gap between income and outflow will widen until the reserves dry up.

Yet, in the face of shrinking assets, dwindling reserves and weakening investment income, the SSS managed to increase—repeat, increase—operating costs by P144 million over the previous year. This is on top of the increase of P247 million in 2001 over 2000. Over a two-year period then, operating costs went up by a whopping P391 million.

It looks like most of this money went to employees' salaries and allowances. On the other hand, employers are now paying more and members are not getting one more centavo in additional benefits. The report does not explain the increase in operating costs. The members have a right to know.

Major surgery is needed right away because the SSS is well on the road to perdition.



Making a statement or not making a statement isn't really a question for true leaders. When it comes to status, attitude and min
when it comes to relevant tasks and future-oriented commitments, only a strong statement can make a difference and pave the
to success. The new BMW 7 Series V12 is a clear statement within the faceless jungle of also-rans. It marks the top-e

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WTO chief picks up pace of deadlocked trade talks

GENEVA—World Trade Organization director general Supachai Panitchpakdi announced a sharp increase Friday in the pace of ailing trade liberalization talks ahead of a key mid-term meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in September.

Supachai said he was organizing daily meetings for heads of delegations from the 146 WTO member states here starting Aug. 11, after a shortened summer recess, in an attempt to break the deadlock ahead of the meeting of ministers in Mexico.

Each morning gathering, which Supachai will unusually join, would target a key issue, starting with agriculture, a trade source said.

"Our plan is to try to set up as much detailed option for the ministers as possible, and to be able to resolve some areas, so that at Cancun the ministers will have a manageable agenda to work on," Supachai told journalists.

Trading nations are looking to the WTO ministerial at Cancun on Sept. 10 to 14 to revive the Doha development round of trade talks, which have stalled notably on the issue of removing barriers to global farm trade.

Carlos Perez del Castillo, the Uruguayan diplomat spearheading the talks, said a final draft for Cancun should be ready by Aug. 22 and would be sent out to capitals after it is approved by the WTO's ruling General Council on Aug. 26.

Many diplomats complained in recent days here that each country or trade bloc was waiting for another to make the first move in making concessions on key issues.

But Supachai also warned that the gathering in Montreal was an informal stock-taking exercise for a limited number of ministers and would not replace the final drive during August in Geneva.

The WTO chief was set to continue weeks of lobbying member states with a trip to South America starting on Wednesday, meeting leaders of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

After a series of meetings in Geneva this week, negotiators indicated no progress on setting out the terms of talks on freeing global trade in farm products in Cancun..

Market access, or the reduction of tariff and other barriers to agricultural imports, has been pinpointed as the major hurdle by most countries, alongside subsidies and domestic support for farmers, with the EU, Japan, the United States and the so-called Cairns Group of farm exporters pitted against each other as well as against developing countries.

"If we manage to get some movement on agriculture, we will see that a number of other issues will be unlocked," Perez del Castillo told journalists.

AFP

Housing, factories boost US growth hopes

WASHINGTON—Good times for the US economy may lie right ahead, analysts said Friday, as fresh data indicated a reawakening of slumbering factories and a red-hot housing sector.

New orders for big-ticket items from US factories surged, and new home sales roared to a record high, the figures showed.

"It really is beginning to look as if the train has finally left the station," said Naroff Economic Advisors president Joel Naroff after the durable goods report was released.

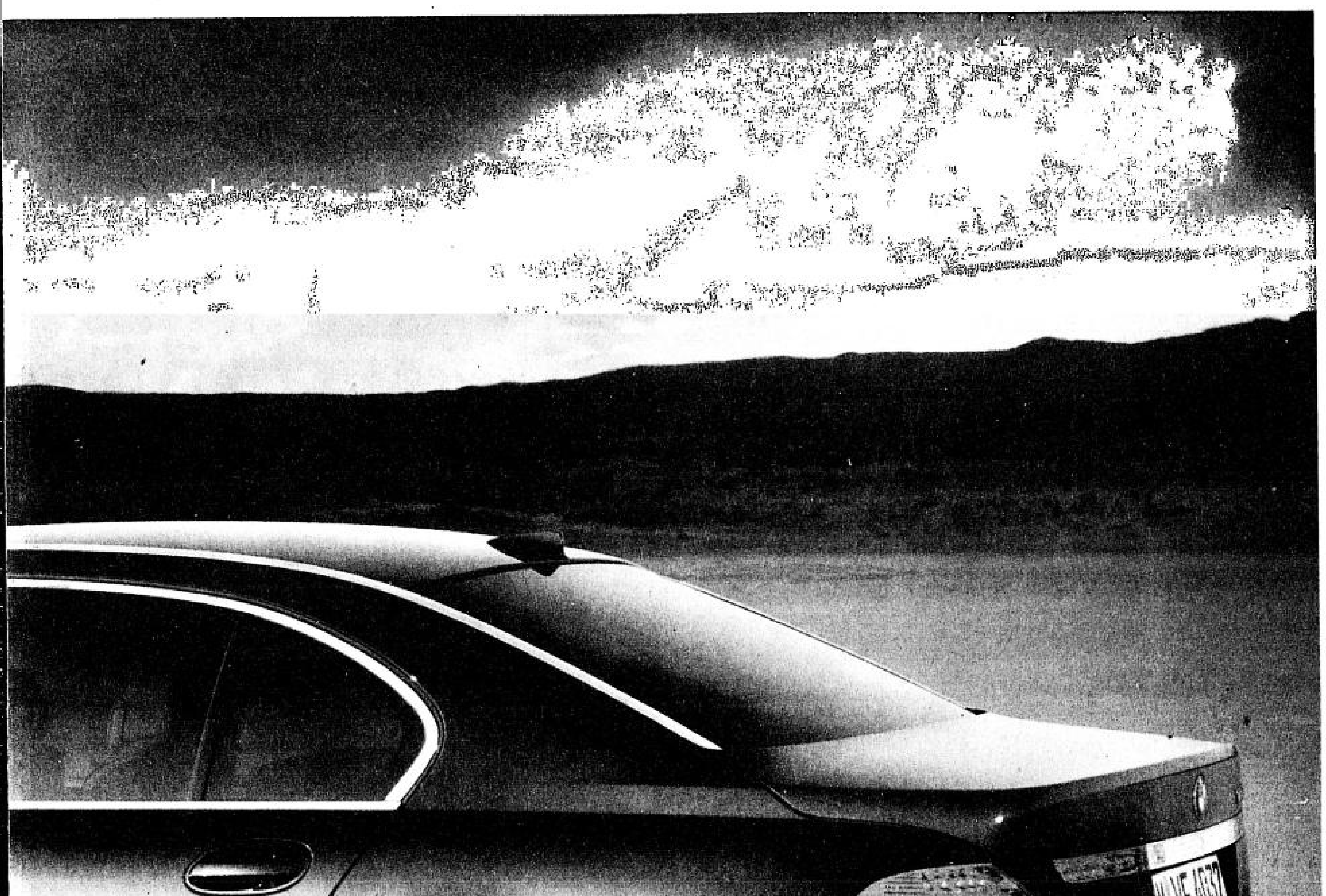
Orders for durable goods from US factories took a five-month record jump of 2.1 percent in June to $172.5 billion, boosted by a 20-percent leap in orders for civilian aircraft, the government said.

A closely watched barometer of future business investment plans—new orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft—rose 0.6 percent in June, the second increase in a row.

"It is a great set of numbers," said BMO Financial Group economist Sal Guatieri.

"It is fitting into a story that you have still got a lot of strength on the consumer side of the economy, especially interest-sensitive areas: housing and autos," he said.

AFP



The BMW 7 Series with the new V12 engine. It represents a new philosophy of the

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nd of for the followers to come. And sets its owners apart who, needless to mention, are also ahead of the rest.

Opec to hold output steady

LONDON—When Opec oil ministers last met to review their production quotas for crude, some feared that exports from a resurgent Iraq would soon undermine the high prices they were then enjoying.

One month later, as its ministers gather once again, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can afford to relax.

Chronic looting and sabotage have hampered Iraq's efforts to ramp up oil exports and exploit its crude reserves, which rank second in size only to those of Saudi Arabia.

The longer Iraq takes to restore its once-mighty oil industry, the longer its fellow cartel members can put off cutting their own output to make way for fresh Iraqi barrels.

Demand for oil remains strong, with the United States and other major importers running down their inventories and the peak summer driving season shifting into top gear. The price for Opec's benchmark crude has been stuck at or near $28 a barrel.

Given such conditions, Opec representatives meeting on July 31 in Vienna, Austria, will feel little need to tinker with output, oil analysts say.

Opec supplies about a third of the world's crude. The group agreed at its June meeting to leave its production ceiling unchanged at 25.4 million barrels a day.

"Opec should retain the current production quota, because the current price is still quite good," said Indonesia's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro, in comments reported last week by Indonesia's national news agency, Antara.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi, seeking to reassure consumers, insisted that oil prices "are not high," in an interview Thursday with the London-based Arabic daily Al-Hayat.

"Even if we do not change the production ceiling, it is important to meet to review the market situation and developments and to hear the views of the 10 ministers regarding the developments in the markets," Naimi explained.

AP

Wall St. rally put to the test

NEW YORK—Stocks may bob around the unchanged mark this week as investors wait for the nation's economy to catch up to their lofty expectations after Wall Street romp off its March lows.

"I think investors are saying we have come too far, too fast—and the stock market needs or should have a breather," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany Corp.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index enjoyed a late-afternoon rally on Friday and is up about 25 percent from its 2003 low hit on March 11. But the broad market measure has been traveling sideways in the past month.

Much of corporate America has posted quarterly profits that topped analysts' expectations, but Wall Street has been betting on a solid earnings performance for months now.

Earnings reports will keep flooding Wall Street this week, but many investors are now turning their sights to the economy.

A slew of key data on the job market, consumer confidence, manufacturing activity and gross domestic product will help investors decide just whether the market's monster rally was justified.

Better-than-expected results from corporate America in the second-quarter reporting period so far have helped support stocks, but they have not proved strong enough to budge the market much higher over the past few weeks.

Corporate scorecards will continue to rain down on Wall Street next week, including results from American Express Co., BMC Software Inc., Sprint Corp. , Xerox Corp., McDonald's Corp., Tyco International Ltd., Verizon Communications, The Walt Disney Co., Exxon Mobil Corp., Halliburton Co. and Procter & Gamble Co.

Almost 65 percent of the S&P 500 companies have posted quarterly earnings, according to Thomson First Call. Roughly 66 percent of the companies have beaten Wall Street estimates, 22 percent have met expectations and just 12 percent have missed forecasts, the research firm said.

Reuters

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Editor Leo Magno

Domain name registrar to give away '.ph' addresses for free

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

LOCAL Philippine domain registry dotPH is giving out the ".ph" domain to Philippine residents for free in a bid to boost adoption of the country domain, an official told INQ7.net on Friday.

In an interview, dotPH spokesperson Emil Avanceña said the move "has been in the works" for months but stressed that it is not in any way "motivated by profit."

DotPh chief executive Joel Disini, who is also the administrator of the ".ph" country-code top-level domain (ccTLD), recently found himself in the hot seat following the government's plans to make the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) an oversight body to govern the administration of the ".ph" domain name.

Avanceña noted that the timing of the announcement is just mere coincidence, and is not related to the government's controversial plan.

"We're now seeing a more accurate picture of the Philippine market after the Internet bubble burst. Before, there was money floating around. Now, people already know what they want out of a certain technology," Avanceña said.

During the Internet boom, he said that people were paying millions for certain domains.

"Now, people have a better idea what domains are worth," he added.

DotPH is offering the ".ph" free of charge for five years but with certain conditions.

Avanceña said the domain name should have at least 18 characters, should be able to point to an existing website (to prevent domain hoarding) and should be used by a Philippine resident.

DotPh also requires websites using the free domain name to register an average of 90 unique visitors every three months.

"This is meant to encourage Filipinos to put up more websites. It is not just business we're after. We want to promote the Philippine domain and help the local community," Avanceña said.

Registration for the ".ph" domain could be done via the Internet, but confirmation is coursed through short messaging system (SMS) to make sure registrants are based in the Philippines.

During the registration process, a confirmation code must be sent via SMS to a predetermined number. The confirmation process takes a mere 30 seconds, dotPH said.

"The cost of a domain has been cited as an obstacle to emerging website owners and entrepreneurs. DotPH has removed this obstacle by making domains available for free," added Disini in a statement.

The government, through the Information Technology and E-commerce Council, disclosed plans to name the NTC as an oversight policy board to monitor the "performance" of dotPH as ccTLD registrar.

The NTC is expected to come out with a guideline on how it intends to function as an oversight body for the ".ph" domain.

One of the reasons government wanted to control the administration of the ".ph" ccTLD is that dotPH started offering the domain to designate "phone" instead of "Philippines." Government also did not like the idea of having one entity monopolizing the sale and administration of the Philippine domain.

IT education needs boost from vendor certification

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S information technology education standards stand to gain from the adoption of vendor-certified courses, especially if the country wants to have a pool of IT graduates that can be tapped to do crucial IT work like the IT graduate pool in India.

One of the measures by which quality is measured is the number of IT graduates that have vendor certifications.

These certifications issued by software development companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, Oracle and Sun through Java, essentially indicate that a person is updated and at par with international standards. It is considered by many to be the only international standard of quality that can equally measure the performance of IT professionals.

In this respect, the Philippines lags behind other countries.

In terms of IT-certified professionals, the DigitalFilipino StatsReport indicates that as of July 2002, the Philippines has 1,588 Microsoft-certified professionals; Indonesia has 1,697; Thailand, 1,711; Malaysia, 4,532; Singapore, 5,942; and India, 100,000.

Cisco-certified professionals, as of October 2002, include 554 network associates, 58 design associates, 44 network professionals, six design professionals and four internetwork experts.

Microsoft Phils. marketing director Mark J. Yambot said in an interview that one of the reasons behind the low turnout of vendor-certified professionals was that many graduates do not recognize the value of certification.

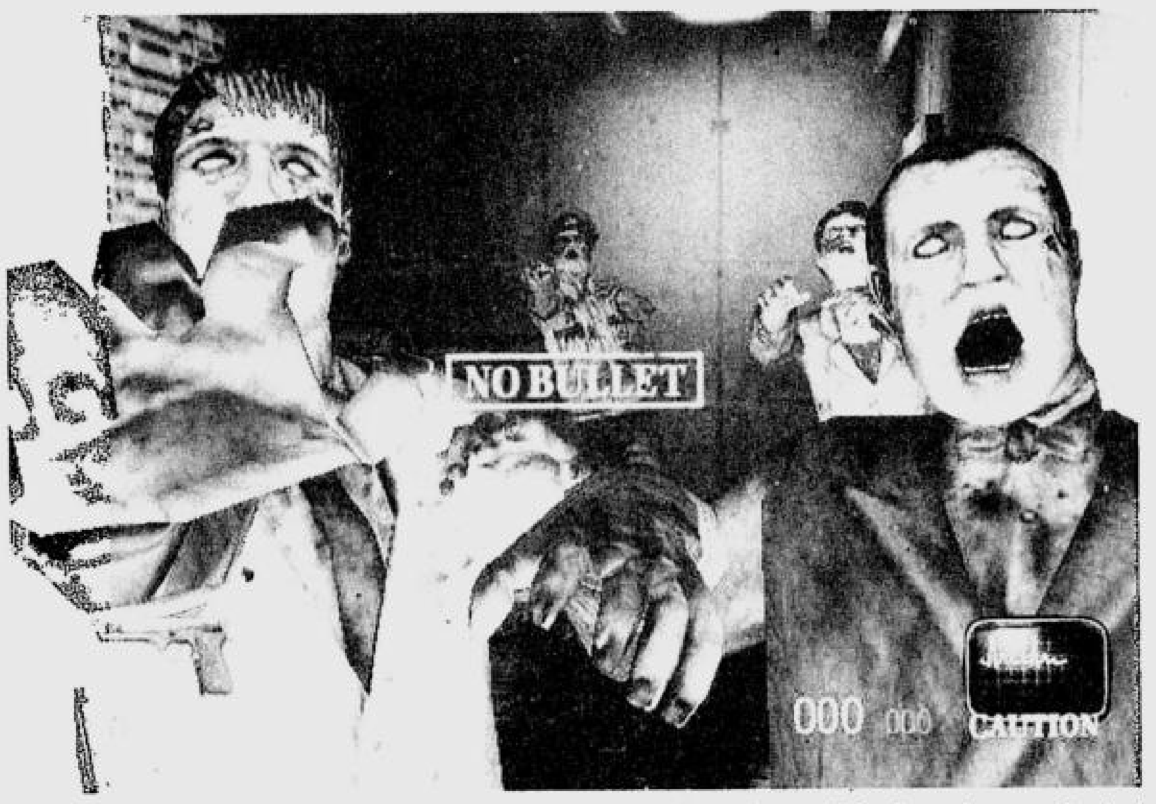
"Many IT professionals do not look at it as too important and I guess it is a reflection of our lack of aggressiveness to tap opportunities out there that are open to them, such as getting better pay," Yambot said.

It is for this reason that IT schools such as NIIT Phils. have been pushing for more students to take vendor certification courses. NIIT managing director Bartolome Silayan said in an interview that the challenge is for the manpower pool to continuously upgrade itself to make it globally competitive. Failure to do so may leave the Philippines with the low-paying IT jobs, instead of cashing in on the premium-paying software development jobs.

"We are already seeing some of that growth because of the boom in IT-enabled services. What the Philippines would want is to be at the top of people's minds when they look for people to do these services for them," Silayan said.

Aim for the dead in Resident Evil: Dead Aim

By Leo Magno



WHEN it comes to games, I'm a horror and gore fan, and I don't mean the US politician who claims he invented the Internet. That's why when "Resident Evil: Dead Aim" first came out for the PlayStation 2, I immediately grabbed a copy.

Prior to this installment of the massively successful Resident Evil franchise, I had played "Resident Evil Zero" and "Resident Evil 1" on the GameCube (the updated, graphically enhanced version) and "Resident Evil: Code Veronica" on the PS2. I have the old, re-released versions of "Resident Evil 2" and "Resident Evil 3: Nemesis" on the GameCube, but I've yet to play them.

But don't be fooled by RE Dead Aim. It is not your usual survival horror game from Capcom. It's a mix between a 3D, third-person game and a first-person shooter. Imagine your usual RE game from Capcom and mix it with House of the Dead from Sega.

As mentioned earlier, yes, this game is in 3D—not with your usual Capcomish prerendered backgrounds and preset camera angles. This means you can move freely around the ship or the lab that you're in. The graphics aren't as pretty as the GameCube versions of RE Zero and RE 1, but RE Dead Aim for the PS2 doesn't look shabby either.

It still has your usual RE elements like finding a key to open this lock or figuring out a way to open so-and-so laboratory or room, but RE Dead Aim is much, much easier to figure out—you don't have to flex that brain muscle of yours that much to finish the game.

But where this game really shines is the first-person shooter mode. RE Dead Aim will be more enjoyable to play with a GunCon 2 light gun, but in my case I used the PS2 controller and found it still fun. Yes, the game switches into a shooter when zombies start coming. All you have to do is press the R1 trigger once and you go into first-person, and now you have House of the Dead. Unlike House of the Dead, though, this game is not a boring rail shooter (like I said earlier it is fully 3D). You only switch into first-person when you want to.

You can also move while in first-person, albeit on a limited basis. When in shooter mode, you use the right analog stick to aim, then you can use the left or right D-pad to move. However, pressing the D-pad or left analog stick up or down will take you back to third-person mode. This may become a nuisance for Halo fans on the Xbox or other first-person shooters who are used to looking up or down with the left thumbstick. And since your character can't shoot in third-person mode, hitting that up or down button while zombies are coming at you could land you in a crapload of trouble.

We review this game on the PlayStation 2

And, unlike previous RE games, the controls in this one aren't like molasses, although you will have some problems moving in reverse unless you hit the 180-degree button. You may not run back into a wall or a zombie like you used to in earlier RE games, but moving back in RE Dead Aim will see your character taking slow, stupid steps backwards.

With the virus epidemic story of the RE franchise, it's easy to create new characters and new scenarios to keep the series going. The plot in RE Dead Aim isn't so bad, but it ain't that great either.

You play either American Bruce McGivern—a badass agent with a Southern drawl—or Chinese agent Fongling. Bruce won't end up fongling Fongling in this game, but you will see some lip action in the ending. The story goes that terrorists led by Morpheus D. Duvall—a vain guy who's got an issue about beauty—hijack a cruiser from the Umbrella Corp. Bruce and Fongling find themselves on the cruise ship with the T-virus onboard. Later, the ship crashes into an island where a labfull of more T-virus weirdoes frolic in the shadows.

You'll see familiar creatures in RE Dead Aim, and some new ones like the electric female tyrant and the ultra-fast, beady-eyed giant frogs that grab you by the neck and puke down your throat. The zombie moans and groans—ambient sound along with footsteps and some banging here and there—add to the creepy atmosphere (but nothing compared to the scary, soggy and fast footsteps of the Crimson Head zombie in RE 1 for the GameCube).

While the graphics in RE Dead Aim aren't at par with those on the remade versions for the GameCube, the 3D environments are nicely detailed, and the game moves smoothly. Enemy models are done quite well, and you can make out some disturbing features on some of the bosses.

However, some of the rooms in RE Dead Aim look very much alike and look like the ones

AIM/B13

NTC says sharing Wi-Fi frequency a business matter, not technical one

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SHARING the 2.4-Gigahertz frequency band used by wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) is not a technical issue but more of a business conundrum between those who want to use it for commercial services and those who intend to use it for "private" use.

"It is possible to share the 2.4-Ghz frequency. But can you imagine life without electricity?" said Priscilla Demition, chief of the frequency management division of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), in an interview with reporters.

Demition said that "interference mitigation techniques" could be implemented to solve potential problems of interference when the NTC decides to lift prohibition on the use of the frequency band in three regions in the Philippines, namely Metro Manila, Region 3 and Region 4.

These regions are franchise areas of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), which currently has the license to use the 2.4-Ghz band. Meralco has been using the 2.4-Ghz frequency band to remotely control and supervise its electrical system called "supervisory control and data acquisition" (Scada) in these regions.

However, the 2.4-Ghz band is also used by Wi-Fi, a new technology that allows computers and handheld devices with appropriate Wi-Fi capabilities to connect to the Internet wirelessly. Wi-Fi provides Internet access to suitably equipped computers within the range of "hotspots" or areas covered by a Wi-Fi provider's radio signal. The technology— like Meralco's Scada system—needs to ride on the 2.4-Ghz frequency band as means to connect users wirelessly to a hotspot.

Beginning in 1998 until the present, Meralco has filed complaints to the NTC, saying some "colorum" users of the frequency band caused interferences on their Scada system.

This has led the NTC to impose prohibitions on the use and licensing of any radio equipment that would interfere with Meralco's system. Operators of commercial and private wireless local area networks and various public groups have recently clamored for the opening up of the 2.4-Ghz frequency band with the emergence of Wi-Fi services.

Demition said that it is possible for Wi-Fi providers—just as Meralco has suggested—to lower the power output of their radio equipment to prevent interferences. The NTC could also impose "geographical sharing techniques" that would identify areas where Wi-Fi providers can deploy services.

In a public hearing conducted last week, Meralco even suggested that local providers and companies should coordinate with them as Wi-Fi services are deployed in the three regions. They, however, opposed plans to disclose specific areas where their Scada system is located due to "security reasons."

There are three types of Wi-Fi in use worldwide—802.11a which uses the 5-Ghz frequency, and 802.11b and 802.11g which both use 2.4-Ghz.

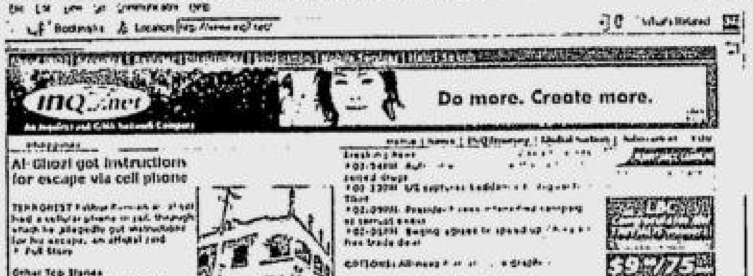
New look boosts INQ7 ad revenue

AFTER UNVEILING a new look for its homepage last month, INQ7.net has announced that the site redesign has resulted in a significant rise in advertising revenue.

According to INQ7.net sales director Michael Sy, the company hit 119 percent of local sales targets in June. Sy said that the "over-quota" had a direct connection to the new look, citing the new sales bookings.

"We had advertisers who were greatly encouraged to sign up because they saw the potentials of new and effective ad spaces made available in the new design. Because of this, many of our clients opted to either increase their placements or chose to advertise for longer durations, or both. It's like a bandwagon effect," according to Sy.

Among the additions to INQ7.net's list of new advertisers is software giant Microsoft Corp., joining other leaders in their respective industries such as Ayala Land, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Chinatrust, Citibank, Ford, Honda, Hewlett-Packard, LBC, Megaworld, myAyala, Oracle, Philam Life, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the Philippine National Bank, Siemens and many others.



THE NEW look of INQ7.net

"In line with our commitment to effectively deliver accurate and up-to-date news and information to our online readers both here and abroad, we will not only continue to improve the look and functionalities of our website, but we will also provide more advertising opportunities for our advertisers as well. These two services are directly related to each other," according to Ramon Lizardo, INQ7.net vice president for business and linkages.

INQ7.net will soon launch a number of new Web and wireless projects that are expected to have a significant impact on online news and information delivery.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint online multimedia news venture between the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

SAP rolls out package for small firms

GERMAN business software giant SAP has developed a less expensive software package targeting smaller organizations in the Philippine market.

The move is also part of the company's change in strategy, which intends to focus more on small- to medium-sized enterprises rather than large organizations.

During a briefing, SAP Philippines managing director Krishnendu Datta admitted that it took the company a while to realize that the Philippine market was unique compared with other Asian countries due to the large number of small- to medium-sized enterprises.

This year, the company in collaboration with consulting firm Magnus Philippines and hardware and software vendors—IBM, HP and Microsoft—have developed a Philippine-centric package called M3Lite for SMEs.

SAP defines small organizations as those with annual revenues of 20 million dollars and below. A typical small organization, as defined by SAP, would have anywhere from five to 20 users.

Magnus senior manager Annie Alipao said a small company would need P2 to P3 million for the package which includes a server (HP or IBM), a Microsoft database, the SAP software and one-year software maintenance cost. The amount could be financed in-house by Magnus with up to three years to pay with zero interest, according to Alipao.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

Convergys appoints RP executive

ZAMORA

CONVERGYS Corp. has appointed Marife Zamora as vice president and country manager of the company's new operations in the Philippines.

Zamora is responsible for overseeing the operations of Convergys' two contact centers in Metro Manila and for growing the company's business in the Philippines. She reports to Dennis Ross, general manager of Convergys' offshore operations, also located in Manila.

Prior to joining Convergys, Zamora served as managing director for Headstrong Inc., a global provider of integrated solutions. She was responsible for leading and managing the company's global system integration center. Zamora held a number of sales, marketing and management positions during her 16-year tenure with IBM.

Distributor says 'remarked' AMD chips rampant in RP

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A LOCAL distributor of microprocessors on Friday cautioned local consumers from buying "remarked" AMD (American Micro Devices)-branded microprocessors from the Philippines, saying that the practice is becoming rampant in the country.

Asiantech, the local distributor of AMD microprocessors, said the "remarked" processors are lower-speed chip models modified (overclocked) to run at higher speeds than they were originally manufactured and intended. These modified chips are sold at a higher price than their original cost.

According to Andy Te, managing director of Asiantech, the company was able to identify several types of remarked AMD processors that are being sold locally to unsuspecting consumers.

One chip is "remarked" as an AMD Athlon XP 1800+ processor, which is actually an AMD Athlon XP Processor Model 6 core type (also known as Palomino) that has been phased out for several months, the distributor said.

This modified chip, upon closer inspection, has a non-existent "ordering part number" printed below the "AMD Athlon" brand located on the center-top of the processor.

The distributor said that this "fake" chip model had been mechanically modified to appear as an AMD Athlon XP 1800+. Changes can be seen in the widening and patching of the original "laser cuts" found on the chip. The fake AMD chip also uses smaller rubber pads instead of wider rubber pads.

Another AMD chip that has been remarked is the AMD Athlon XP 2000+ processor.

Similar to the other branded chip model, the modified chip also carries visible "mechanical modifications," but uses the newer AMD Athlon XP Processor Model 8 core type (popularly known as the Thunderbird), the distributor said.

The local distributor said that other AMD models had been modified to allow unscrupulous parties to sell the chip at a higher cost.

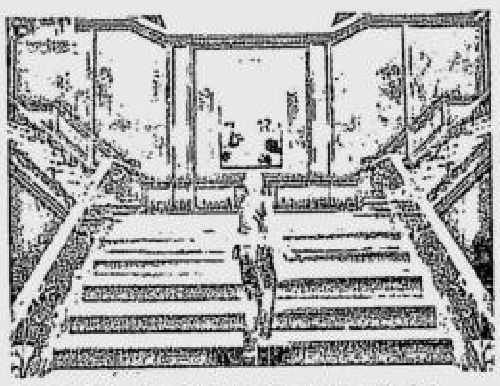
"For assurance against remarked AMD processors, we recommend the dealers and the consumers to look for the Asiantech (ATCC) warranty sticker that uses security adhesive material for assurance against fraud," Te said.

"As entrepreneurs, we should preserve the name of our respective businesses and should take upon the responsibility to safeguard the consumers from fake products," the executive added.

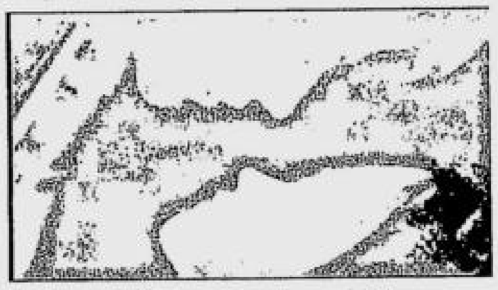
Asiantech previously exposed the practice of mislabeling of AMD chips to deceive local consumers into buying lower-speed models priced higher than their original cost.

A local distributor, however, noted that the mislabeled AMD chips were just a big misunderstanding related to the confusion between the brand of a motherboard and an AMD microprocessor brand.

Aim for the dead in Resident Evil . . .


LOOKS familiar? That's because it is, for Resident Evil veterans. The lobby of the cruise ship in RE Dead Aim looks like the lobby in the famous RE mansion.

THE HUNTERS are back, but now you get to blast them away with your shotgun or Magnum from a first-person view.


EAST meets West as Fongling of China bumps into American Bruce McGivern.

THE MECHANICS of this game are easy. Go through the dark hallways and when you see zombie scum, go into shooting mode and blow holes out of the undead suckers.

From page B12

you've visited in previous RE games, especially the labs and the cruise ship lobby which looks like the lobby in the old RE mansion, complete with the big painting in the middle.

Still, the way zombies fly into the air when you blast them with a shotgun or the way their heads and blood get splattered on the wall when you make a perfect head shot is not something to crow about.

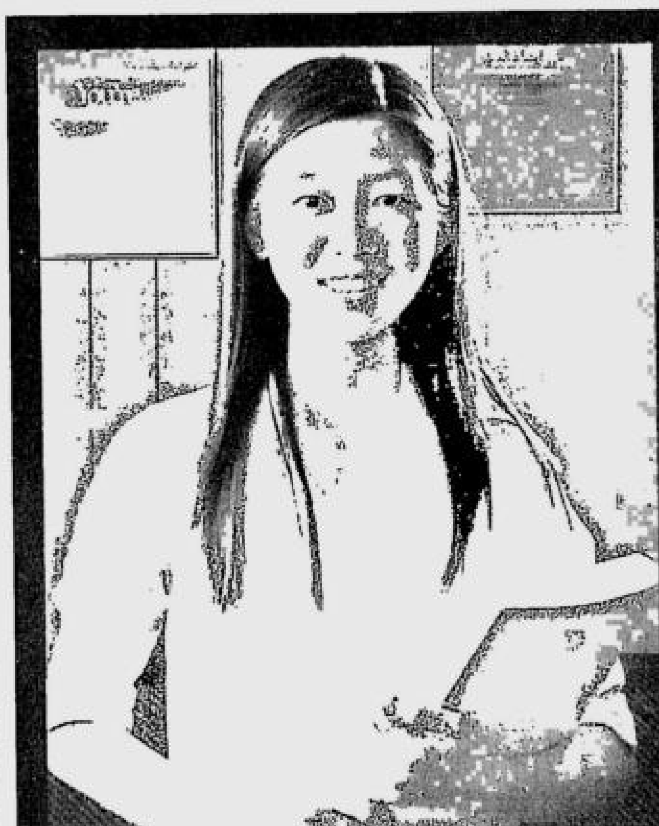
The coolest thing about RE Dead Aim is the shooting. Like House of the Dead, it's fun to blast zombies away, especially if you're using a light gun, but you can still have loads of fun with a controller which works well except for the final boss where accuracy is crucial. Although you can't blow their limbs out, you can actually sneak up on a zombie, go into first-person and do a very satisfying head shot. Most head shots are rewarded with dropped ammo and herbs or herbal medicine.

Which brings us to the next fun part about RE Dead Aim. Although you can't drop items on the floor and go back for them like you do in RE Zero, and you can't deposit them in item boxes like in RE 1, you can hold a lot of ammo and health items. Watch out, though, because items left by zombies disappear once you leave the room—you can't go back for them. Also, since this is a linear game, you can't go back to previous general areas to collect those magnum rounds you left on the drawer.

All in all, RE Dead Aim is a fun game to play. It marries the freedom of going around in a 3D environment and the adrenaline rush you get in rail shooters. However, like House of the Dead and other rail shooters, this game is extremely short. It took me just 2 hours and 43 minutes to beat the game with a "B" ranking. That's still about five times as long as House of the Dead 3, but only about 25 percent as long as RE 1. For a 3D survivor game, this game is right down there with Gary Coleman in the length department.

However, while the game isn't long enough to be considered by die-hard RE fans as a true Resident Evil title, the elements of a good game are there in RE Dead Aim. It's fun to blast undead brain, it's tense and has some surprising moments and you don't have to wait forever to finish the game and try to find time to work or study at the same time. The puzzles are brain-dead easy, though. All you have to do is switch your brain off and find the key. This augurs well for those who need a lobotomy after playing Myst.

Despite its length and above-average graphics, RE Dead Aim is still a worthy addition to the RE series. Most of all, it's fun to play. Despite its flaws, I still recommend PS2 players to pick this one up.



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How to change the shape of MS Excel cell comments

By Jerry Liao

WANT to change the yellow boxes which Microsoft Excel uses to display cell comments? Here's how :

1) Open MS Excel.

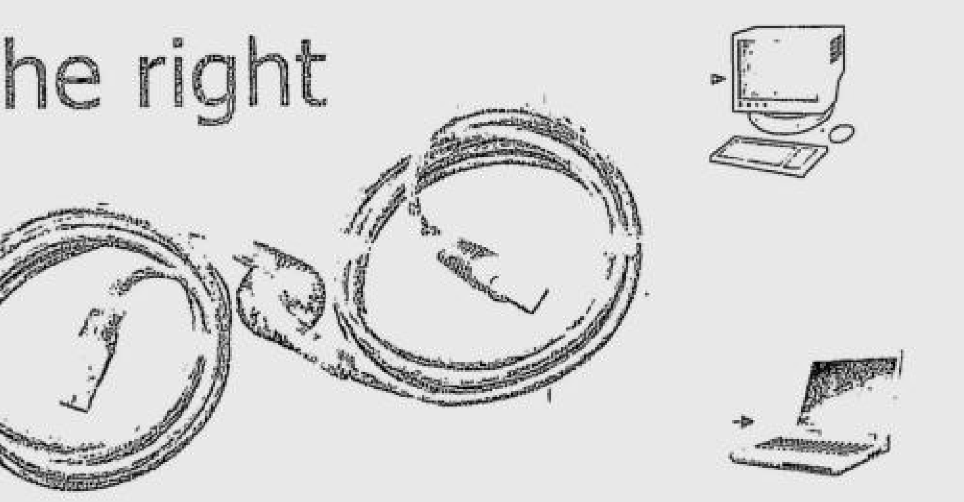
2) Click "View" then "Comments."

3) Click on "View," "Toolbars," then "Drawing."

4) Select the edge of the comment you want to change.

5) Choose "Draw" then "Change AutoShape" (from the Drawing toolbar) and select the AutoShape you want.

Visit www.brainshare.com.ph for more tips.



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OTHER PROVINCIAL

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LAGUNA

2BR 1T&B w/PLDT Lines Sta. Rosa Vill. Joy 800-7531

Tpark 3T/mo. 452-6291

TAGUIG

Bicutan, Taguig House&Lot LA280 Holy Family Vill P2M neg Lopez 9280512

VALENZUELA

Apt.4 Sale w/Hse&Lot Marulas Val. DBO LA:400m² FA:60m² 890-9718 09167678186

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

• D' RESIDENCES • D' COLUMNS • STD 1,2,3 BR TERM 0916-4444475

EL Towr Condo Along Edsa 27th 3rd 18th Flrs PET Plans Bldg Guadalupe Mktl P30TH /m² w/CG Lopez 9280512

ROKWL 2BR 12.9M 6354956

MANILA

LEON GUINTO NEAR LA SALLE Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

1-2-3BR nr La Salle TAFT 894-4516 0917-9853661

MANDALUYONG

PIONEER EAST 1BR 52m² 2.5M 4121825•09177914366

PARANAQUE

2BR 2TB T-House nr SM Bic 822-8700 0919-6305142

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10% DP P9T/mo or 2Yrs No INT. AYALA PROJECT STUDIO-3BR ACROSS SM SUCAT 0917-8313226

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Alg Sumulong Hway Antipolo 3749m² good for gas station 6873372 09178102903

Antipolo- La Colina Subd. 503m² P1.5M Lopez 9280512

Antipolo-Gensen St cor. Muning Dilaw 240m² Village East P1M neg. •Lopez 928-0512•

Nr Felix Ave Vista V.Country Homes 200m² xP2500 9220313

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81M² 2BR WACK² 20T 0918-9420180

PIONEER EAST 1BR 52m² 2.5M 4121825•09177914366

PASIG

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR UNFURN 17T 4121825 0917-7914366

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QUEZON CITY

5Condo w/elvgrd pkg 8156172 9210808

APARTMENT

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[illegible] 23T 97 40sqm [illegible] 33T 4121825 09177914366

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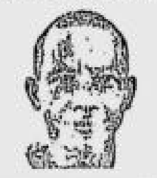
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



ROEL "BOYET" P. FLORES

THE DASMARIÑAS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION WISHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT MR. ROEL "BOYET" P. FLORES WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS ABOVE, IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH US IN ANY WAY EFFECTIVE MAY 24, 2003. ANY TRANSACTION HE MADE AND/OR ENTERED INTO ON OR AFTER SAID DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE ASSOCIATION. THANK YOU.

(PDI - July 28, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of the late NARCISA MANUEL & the husband MARIANO MANUEL executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights duly acknowledge before notary public Raymundo Defante Jr. in Makati City Phils. per Doc 104, Page 21, Book LV, series of 2003 (PDI-July 28, Aug. 4, & 11 2003)

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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OR ENTA

ORIENTAL Assurance Corp. has chosen Jose Mari Chan to be its official endorser. Oriental believes that the country's top songwriter, singer and businessman achievements in music as well as in business symbolizes the company's dependability and stability as a non-life insurance provider. Present during the photo opportunity (L-R) Mr. Jun Cotoco - vice-president, Isauro N. Cotoco - chairman, Jose Mari Chan and Kent S. Cotoco - executive vice president of Oriental Assurance Corporation.

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Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

GREGORIO M. MACALINTAL, SR.

"MAC"

of Bulacnin, Lipa City
Peacefully joined the Lord
on July 26, 2003 at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife, **Bienvenida "Bening" B. Macalintal**; children **Dr. Pons** and **Lorena**; **Atty. Romy** and **Mila**; **Tony** and **Zeny**; **Rene** and **Mariza**; **Engr. Greg, Jr.** and **Bel**; **Mel** and **Ed Rada**; and **Dra. Nory** and **Jun Almoro**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the San Fernando Funeral Homes, Marauoy, Lipa City (near the Fiesta Mall).

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens, Inosluban, Lipa City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

– God saw you getting tired when a cure was not to be.
So He wrapped His arm around you and whispered,
"Come to Me."

Our Beloved

"Morty"

RAFAEL ABOITIZ ALTONAGA

Peacefully joined His Creator on July 16, 2003
in San Francisco, California at the age of 78.

To all his dear relatives and friends, whose lives were touched by the kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, joy and true friendship of Morty, we invite you to bid him adieu

at a Memorial Mass to be offered at 6 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, July 29, 2003 at the Capilla del Señor y de la Virgen Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Interment at the Santuario de San Antonio Crypt will follow.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Morty's favorite charity, Bantay Bata, would be more appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

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South Luzon Regional Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-08C

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 26, 2003; 02:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	BATTERY, POWER FUSE, LIGHTNING ARRESTER	D1-03-174
A2	10 UNITS	COMBINED OVER-CURRENT & AUTO-RECLOSER	3PSMDS-03-027
A3	12 UNITS	RELAY	3PSMDS-03-025
A4	1 LOT	RELAYS (FREQUENCY/LOCK OUT/ AUXILIARY)	PSMD-N-03-096

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on August 07, 2003; 10:00 AM at SLT bidding Room for Schedules A2 and A3.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting July 30, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 02:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI – July 28, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase* by way of sealed bids on as *"As-Is - Where Is"* basis, the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/TERMS
I. FIRST TENDER			
001	6,375.30 sq m. commercial property	East Triangle, EDSA, Quezon City	PhP40,500/sq m. or PhP258,199,650.00 CASH basis or 10% deposit, balance payable in 6 months, without interest
002	863.57 sq m. commercial property With TCT	Felix Avenue, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP13,750.00/sq.m. or PhP11,874,087.00 CASH/Staggered: CASH of 6 months/ Installment up to 10 yrs.
II. SECOND TENDER			
003	5,105.0 sq m commercial property; With TCT	Lapu-lapu Avenue corners Ayungin & Babanse Sts., Dagat-dagatan Project	PhP12,000/sq m. PhP61,260,000.00; CASH/ Staggered, CASH of 6 months/ Installment up to 10 years
004	17 hectare rawland property. Relatively flat terrain, irregular in shape with no existing R-O-W; With TCT	250 meters from McArthur Highway Brgy. Buruł, Tarlac City	PhP38.148 Million CASH basis

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED), Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Bldg. and the NHA-Tarlac Project Disposition Committee c/o Northern & Central Luzon (NCL) Management Office, NHA-Annex Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. For inquiry, please contact the following persons. For Tarlac property: Engr. Feliciano F. Lazarte, Jr., Department Manager, NCL Management Office at the following Tel. Nos. of NCL: (02) 922-3325; (02) 923-0397 & (02) 928-4562 local 511 to 513. For all other properties: Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms. Neri A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 302 & 303.

SCHEDULE	TARLAC	OTHER PROPERTIES
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	July 30 to Aug. 8, 2003 Office Hours, NCL, NHA-Annex Bldg. Elliptical Road, Q.C.	July 30 to Aug. 11, 2003 Office Hours, CIED, 2nd Flr., NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Q.C.
B. Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 5, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Main Bldg.	Aug. 6, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Main Bldg.
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	Aug. 12, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 12 nn Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Aug. 11, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 12 nn Operations Center, 3rd Floor
D. Opening of Sealed Bids	Aug. 12, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Aug. 11, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager

(PDI - July 28 & Aug. 2, 2003)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all Palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs), Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs), Farmers' Association (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the distribution of imported rice under the *"FARMERS as DISTRIBUTORS"* (FAD) Program of the National Food Authority.

All interested parties are advised to accomplished a Letter of Intent (LOI), copies of which are available at the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas, to be submitted within five (5) days after the last day of publication. They should likewise meet the following qualifications:

- Must be registered with any of the appropriate registering agencies as listed below and must be operationally/actively engaged in rice retailing/wholesaling business at least from 2002 up to the present.
  - Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
  - Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
  - SEC, Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR)
  - Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW)
  - National Irrigation Administration (NIA)
- Must be a member of local farmers' action council or the Philippine Farmers' Advisory Board (PFAB).
- Must be holders of NFA license as wholesaler/retailer, and other incidental lines of activities, i.e., warehousing and transporting, if any.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For further inquiries, they may visit or contact NFA-DMO located at 5th Flr. Matimyas Bldg., 101-E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City with telephone nos. **712-1572, 712-1708** or **712-1564.**

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP
Administrator

(PDI - July 26, 27 & 28, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Tourism
T.M. Kalaw, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 525-3744 / 524-6541

Invitation to Bid for the Provision of Lights & Sounds, and Music Instrumentation Systems

The Department of Tourism, through its Pre-Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites qualified suppliers to participate in the bidding for the provision of:

(1) Lights & Sounds Systems and
(2) Musical Instrumentation Systems,

which are needed for the purpose of holding regular cultural and entertainment production numbers in support of the ***Visit the Philippines Year 2003*** campaign from ***1 September 2003*** until ***31 December 2003*** in various venues within Intramuros, namely:

- Clamshells I & II
- Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
- Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
- Sta. Lucia Gardens
- Plaza San Ignacio, and
- Fort Santiago

The Terms of Reference may be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat in Room 309, DOT Bldg., TM Kalaw St., Manila from July 31 - August 7, 2003 upon submission of the following requirements: (1) Letter of Intent, photocopies of (2) valid Mayor's Permit, (3) DTI Certification Registration, (4) latest audited Financial Statements, (5) latest Income Tax Return and (6) payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). Original copies should be shown for authentication purposes.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on August 8, 2003 at 2:00 P.M., DOT Auditorium, 4th Floor DOT Bldg. The sealed bids shall be accepted on or before August 14, 2003, 2:00 P.M. Rm. 309, DOT Bldg. All the submitted bids shall be opened subsequently on the same date, 2:30 PM, at the DOT Auditorium, 4th Floor, DOT Bldg.

The DOT reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to nullify the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or lose that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) Asst. Secretary Ma. Theresa I. Martinez
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI July 27, 28 & 29, 2003)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V
Legazpi City
Tel. No. 480-7122

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Private Security Agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of Security Services at the following installations of NFA Region V. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into lots with one province treated as one (1) lot.

PROVINCE	NO. of SG's	APPROVED BUDGET
Albay	37	P 4,094,516.52
Cam Norte	12	1,279,631.52
Cam Sur	33	3,610,382.28
Catanduanes	9	959,723.64
Masbate	6	639,815.76
Sorsogon	15	1,599,539.40

Registration/Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance at RBAC Secretariat NFA Legazpi City upon payment of P1,000.00 which is non-refundable.

Only those who have been pre-qualified by the RBAC's and who have paid an additional P5,000.00 as Bidding Fee shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bidding conference and the Bidding Proper. Hereunder is the schedule:

Aug. 18-20, 2003	Issuance of application forms for registration
Aug. 29, 2003	Deadline for submission of application forms For registration
Sept. 4-5, 2003	Issuance of Certificate of registration and Application for Eligibility to Bid
Sept. 16, 2003	Deadline for submission of application for Eligibility
Sept. 23, 2003	Pre-bidding Conference
Sept. 30, 2003	Submission and opening of sealed bids

A special Power of Attorney issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents on his behalf shall be required before issuance of the documents.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) DANILO I. PASTRANA
Regional Director

(PDI - July 28 & Aug. 3, 2003)

E-mail: sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

SONA PGMA's State of the Nation Address

Editor Aries Espinosa

Winning the war against terrorism

By Raffy S. Jimenez
Photos by PDI Photo Department

IF THE current situation in the southern island of Basilan is any indication, then the Philippine government is slowly winning the war against terrorism.

Until last year, Basilan has been typecast as a terrorist lair primarily because of the presence of the extremist Abu Sayyaf rebels in the area. The United States has linked the radical Muslim group to the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

THE PRESIDENT delivers her Independence Day message June 12 in Zamboanga City.

"Before, Basilan had been a hotbed of terrorists where activities from kidnapping to murder to ethnic rivalry between Christians and Muslims abound," said Armed Forces Public Information chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

At present, Lucero said, Basilan has greatly improved. "The people there are beginning to feel the presence of the government and the mass base support of the rebels there has been eroded to a great extent."

Lucero knows from where he speaks.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, Lucero was first assigned in Basilan as a young lieutenant upon graduation until 1986. He returned in July 2000 to September 2002 and served as commanding officer of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion.

In 2001, Lucero's battalion bagged the coveted Philippine Army Streamer Award for topping in the field of administration, operations, civic-military operations and intelligence. Last year, Lucero's battalion grabbed second over-all in the Army's 78 battalions nationwide, including being adjudged as the best in the field operation.

Before, Lucero said the people could not even tend their farm for fear of being caught in the crossfire between operating troops and terrorist groups. Worse, the terrorists would abduct civilians, use them as human shields and sometimes behead Christian males.

"A lot has changed since the conduct of the Balikatan exercise with the Americans last year. The living condition has improved and the people who used to provide support to the Abu Sayyaf are now the ones giving the troops information on rebel movements," said Lucero.

For one, the strength of the Abu Sayyaf has been greatly reduced over the years: from 803 members in January 2001, the number has fallen to 385 as of June 2003, most of them now based in Jolo, Sulu.

The group's leaders, like Khadaffy Janjalani have fled to Sultan Kudarat where intensified military operations are currently underway. Among the leaders neutralized were self-styled spokesperson Aldam Tilao, known as Abu Sabaya, and Sulu-based Mujib Susukan.

Second, the living condition in Basilan has greatly improved largely through Project Bayanihan, a socio-economic project of the Americans that has resulted in the completion of a 79.2-km road in the province, construction of 16 new bridges, wells and helicopter landing zones as well as improvements on two boat docking areas and the Isabela airstrip.

In addition, counter-terrorism training for local troops by American military advisers is continuing.

Next in line is the nearby island-province of Jolo, Sulu where a number of Abu Sayyaf rebels are also on the run, an indication that the terror group is losing steam.

In December, a joint military exercise similar to the one held in Basilan last year would be conducted in Sulu.

Bandits on the run

A military assessment on the Abu Sayyaf reads: "The intensified and sustained military operations against the ASG since year 2000 has significantly reduced its strength as they continue to be on the run."

But the government's success is not limited on the Abu Sayyaf but on other terrorists as well, both foreign and local.

The military is currently intensifying operations against the communist New People's Army and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) even if the door to a peaceful settlement of the decades-old rebellion remains open.

Sustained operations have reduced the number of communist rebels from over 11,000 last year to about 9,257 at present. On the other hand, the number of MILF fighters has been reduced to 12,000 from over 15,000 in the year 2000.

On the global war on terrorism, two members of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) were arrested in separate police and military operations in Metro Manila last year: Indonesian nationals Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and Agus Dwikarna. Both have since been serving respective sentences on charges of illegal possession of explosives.

Just recently, Al Ghozi was indicted along with eight others, including Malaysian Abubakar Bafana Faiz and Indonesian Isamudin Riduan Hambali, in connection with the Rizal Day bombing in Metro Manila in the year 2000 which killed 22 and injured over 60 others. Unfortunately, Al-Ghozi and two other Abu Sayyaf terrorists have escaped from their cells at Camp Crame in Quezon City. They are now the subject of a massive manhunt by police authorities.

An elusive Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) urban terrorist, Muklis Yunos, has also fallen in government hands and eventually pleaded guilty in connection with the said bombing. Late last month, five Indonesians were nabbed in General Santos City purportedly while planning to plant a bomb on a bus terminal in the area.

Authorities are verifying whether the five foreign nationals are members of the JI, which the United States has described as the Southeast Asian cell of the al-Qaida.

"We are on the right track. We cannot say we are 100-percent successful but we're getting there," said Armed Forces vice chief and concurrent spokesperson Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

"In terms of the global war on terrorism, we are already ahead in realizing the need to combat this menace. We do not only address internal terrorism but global concerns as well with the arrest of JI members here," Garcia said.

But curbing terrorism is not that easy.

On July 10, a powerful explosion rocked the public market of Koronadal City in South Cotabato, killing three people and injuring 25 others. Only two months ago, a similar explosion hit the area wherein 10 persons died and 41 others injured.

Authorities suspect the incidents could be the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF although no strong evidence has been forwarded.

Also, successive explosions rocked Davao City in March and April where 38 persons died and over 200 injured. Charges have been filed against ranking MILF leaders, including MILF chieftain Salamat Hashim in connection with the Davao City bombings.

"The incident in Koronadal was unfortunate but there could have been more incidents like those had we not been addressing terrorist threats in the country," Garcia said.

"Who would ever think that a minimum wage earner like me could buy his own home? But Pag-IBIG Fund, through its low interest rates, made this possible. In fact my monthly amortization now is much lower than what I used to pay for rent."

Roderick Gomez, courier
Mabuhay Homes 2000, Dasmarinas, Cavite
P1,800 monthly amortization, 15-year term

Roderick Gomez is just one of the 59,101 Filipino employees who had benefited from Pag-IBIG Fund's housing loan program this past year. Because of its low interest rates, low-income workers could easily afford the monthly amortization.

Pag-IBIG'S interest rates presently ranges from 6% to 12% per annum, depending on the loan amount — the lowest in the market today.

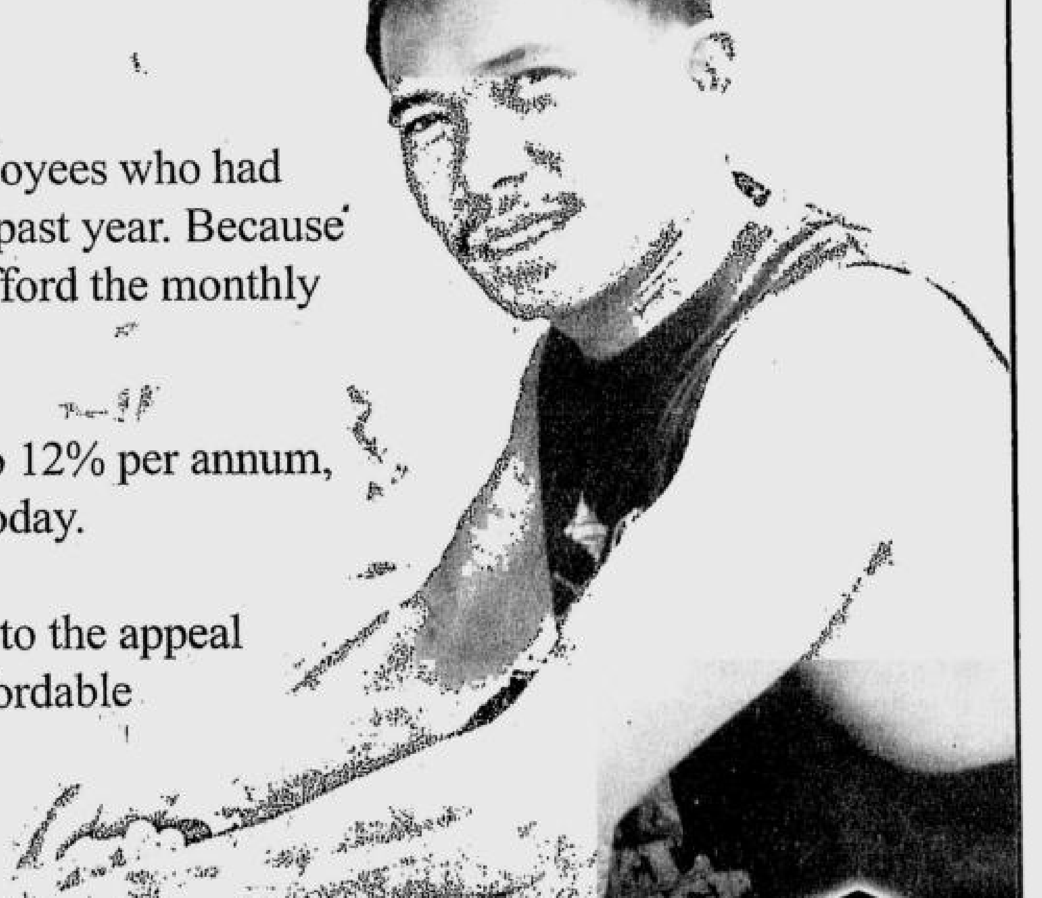
This is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's response to the appeal of the lowly Filipino worker – a housing program that is affordable and within reach of every Filipino.

Strong Republic Housing

"Pabahay sa Bawat Pamilya: Haligi ng Matatag na Republika"

The Pag-IBIG Fund is an agency of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Pag-IBIG FUND



GMA's mission: A roof over every Filipino's head

MILDRED Batalan, a wife with four children, lived with her family in a squatter's area in Davao City. Like many other slum dwellers, Mildred longed to own a house where she could raise her children in a healthy and supportive environment.

But for more than 10 years, Mildred's dream was just that-a dream. She was only earning P3,000 a month working as an operator for a local printing firm in the city. There seemed to be no way she could afford a house with her meager salary.

Last year, she read that the National Housing Authority (NHA) would open a housing project in Davao City. She lost no time in applying. Now she owns a small house and lot that she is paying through a low-amortization scheme offered by the NHA.

"It isn't much really, but it is a very decent house. And we are going to own it at very low monthly payments," Mildred said with modest pride.

Mildred is only one among the thousands of homeless Filipinos who shall have their own homes under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's intensified housing program.

In December 2002, the President led the groundbreaking rites of the Alno Sunflower Subdivision in La Trinidad, Benguet. The subdivision, ensconced on a hilly terrain, is intended for members of the Philippine National Police and its civilian employees in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The project, a joint effort of Pag-Ibig and Capuyan Construction, a private housing contractor, will have 129 housing units under the socialized housing scheme and 163 economic houses, both types to be sold to beneficiaries in affordable monthly installments.

Total cost of the project is P2.039 million.

Pag-Ibig Baguio has also approved housing projects under the Group Land Acquisition and Development (GLAD) under which the government buys private lands where beneficiaries shall be allowed to own their designated houses after completing payments.

One GLAD project is the 330-unit Cordillera Housing Cooperative at Km. 10, Marcos Highway, Barangay Taloy, Tuba, Benguet. It is overlooking the wide expanse of Pangasinan and La Union coastal towns and the sea beyond.

Another GLAD project in the Cordilleras is the Millennium Homeowners Association housing located in Longlong, La Trinidad, Benguet, which would make available 175 housing units to qualified applicants.

The government's desire to house every Filipino has also brought the NHA to Eastern Visayas. Currently, the NHA is developing a nine-hectare land in Barangay Kauswagan, Palo, Leyte in tandem with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Leyte provincial government and the municipal government of Palo.

Part of the area will be developed for homeless employees of the provincial and municipal governments while another portion will be a resettlement area for squatter families now occupying lots in the government center in Barangay Pawing, Palo town.

The NHA, likewise, is currently working on 90 housing units in Barangay Baras in Palo, near the MacArthur Park.

Another NHA project in Eastern Visayas is the Dolores, Eastern Samar Settlement Site covering five hectares where 330 housing units will be built.

In Tacloban City, a resettlement project of 488 units in Barangay Palanog has been completed while the Bliss-Kandungganan Project Phases 1 and 2, in Barangay San Jose, with 500 units, are now occupied by more than 200 former squatter-families.

Last May 5, the President led the groundbreaking of an off-base housing project in Camp Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite.

This signals the formal construction of a total of 1,323 quality but affordable housing units for soldiers and their families.

MS MACAPAGAL inspects the AFP Housing Project in Tanza, Cavite.

This is just one proof that the government is sincere in its promise to improve the lot of the Filipino soldiers.

The NHA, with the support of other government agencies and the private sector, has chalked up significant accomplishments to achieve its goal.

From January 1 to May 31, this year, the agency posted a total production output rate of 76 percent, representing 5,715 units completed out of the 7,566 units targeted nationwide for the period.

In the National Capital Region, the NHA even overshot its target by a whopping 316 percent, covering 496 units out of 1,567 units programmed for the same five-month period.

During the same period, the NHA completed a total of 4,418 units out of 7,070 programmed for the Visayas, Southern Luzon, Bicol, Mindanao, Northern and Central Luzon regions.

It is a daunting task, to make real this dream of every Filipino to own a house but with determination and focus, the government hopes to make this dream come true.

GMA briefs residents of Barangay Tabiac, Igbaras, Iloilo, on the launch of their Strong Republic School.

25-year-old Davaoeño 1st BIR millionaire

ALVIN Geronimo had always dreamt of being a doctor while growing up in Luna, Kapalong, Davao del Norte.

But as fate would have it, the 25-year-old resident of Toril, Davao city could go no farther than a two-year computer course.

A bachelor who has taken to treating his nephews and nieces as his own children, Alvin was working behind his desk at the computer department of a well-known pawnshop in downtown Davao when Lady Luck smiled on him.

It was in the afternoon of June 30 that he received a text message on his cellular phone that he had just won P1 million in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR's) Bayan I-text ang Resibo (BIR) promo.

"It was as if the whole world stopped, my stomach started churning," Alvin recalled Tuesday (July 15) when he finally received his winnings from Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and BIR commissioner Guillermo Parayno.

After the euphoria settled down, Alvin said he immediately called up his parents Alfredo and Cristeta to tell them that their youngest child just became an instant millionaire.

Alvin himself acknowledged that he is wary over what fate has in store for him now that he already has P1 million.

"I am afraid I might lose the money with the wrong moves," he said.

But for the moment, Alvin intends to use the money in paying off his bills and other liabilities before deciding on how much to donate to his church.

"God may not have granted my childhood dream of becoming a doctor but I am as grateful for this gift. I only pray that I shall prove truly worthy of His trust," Alvin said.

Alvin's newfound fortune is just one of the three instant millionaires' stories that will come true on July 31 and Aug. 29 when the BIR holds the major draws for the Bayan I-text ang Resibo promo.

According to Camacho, the BIR promo is just one of the many programs lined up by the Department of Finance to further bolster the target-busting revenue records of BIR and the Bureau of Customs.

"Already, our targets have been surpassed but we're not stopping there," Camacho said.

In June, BIR posted its third straight month of revenue collections in excess of its goal. BIR collected P32.03 billion, which was P478 million or 1.5 percent more than the monthly goal.

This strong showing follows two months of actual collections exceeding targets.

This improving trend shows that, compared to the same period last year, collections showed double-digit growth ranging from 11.58 percent to 18 percent.

25-YEAR-OLD/ B18

This message is brought to you by PCSO in support towards a Strong Republic

SOLID PERFORMANCE IN THE PRESIDENT'S SONA TARGETS

Two years ago. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo laid out her framework of governance to achieve her vision of winning the war against poverty within the decade and set specific targets to attain this vision: an economic philosophy of free enterprises appropriate to the 21st century: modernized agriculture sector founded on social equity, a social bias toward the disadvantaged to balance economic development, and good governance to build confidence in the nation and channel resource to the poor.

In her second State of the Nation Address last year. she announced her goal to build a strong republic with empowered institutions free from class and sectoral interests. as well as a robust bureaucracy that executes sound policies and delivers essential services. These two features are expected to result in faster economic development and social reform.

As her third SONA approaches. the President has achieved a strong record of performance in the targets that she set. Among the accomplishments that exceeded or substantially complied with SONA targets:

- 1.78 million jobs created in agriculture and fisheries from July 2001 to June 2002
- 1.4 billion in microcredit to 698.528 women borrowers (July 2001-April 2003)
- 1.7 million workers placed by dole IN LOCAL JOBS (January 2001-March 2003)
- Security of tenure for 268.861 informal settlers households through land proclamations issued by the President and the Community Mortgage Program (January 2001-June 2003 for all housing data)
- 115.668 very poor households provided housing and slum upgrading services.
- 119.246 low-income employees provided cheap home financing
- Low cost imported medicines worth nearly P200 million made available in 188 public hospitals and health centers. five agencies and two NGOs
- Philhealth insurance for 1.39 million poor households – nearly 7 million people – as of May 2003
- 403.187 hectares of public and private agriculture land (January 2001-June 2003)

Funding for the Agriculture & Fisheries Modernization Act implementation maintained at over P20 billion annually (P24.2 billion in 2001' P21.7 billion on 2002; P33 billion allocated in 2003)

- 1.113 NFA rolling or stationary stores selling P14/kg rice in poor areas
- 210.629 coconut farmer-families provided low-cost basic commodities
- Public transport fares maintained at July 2001 levels
- 3.608 barangays provided with electricity (January 2001-June 2003). attaining 88.7% barangay-level electrification
- Reviewed 35 contracts with independents power producers and negotiated $825 million in savings. 10% of Napocor's stranded cost partly borne by consumers
- 1-to-1 textbook students ratio in priority subjects in Grades 1-6 (except Grade 3 English and Filipino) and 1st and 2nd Year High School. benefiting 16.8 million public school students
- Tourism growth maintained despite negative travel climate. with arrivals up 7.7% last year to 1.93 million and earnings hitting $1.64 billion
- Kidnapping incidents down 32.3% to 67 in 2002. from 99 in 2001. Five KFR groups. 7 KFR leaders and 18 top KFR members were neutralized.
- CPP-NPA strength reduced 22% to 9.257 rebels last year. from 11.930 in 2001
- In 10.360 anti-drug operations were arrested. including 6.242 suspected pushers. and 13.997 cases were filed in court
- Assistance for school and living expenses provided to 400 Payatas children. including six kids invited to the 2001 SONA. Jayson Banogan is now 1st year at U.P. Integrated School in Balara. Erwin Dolera and Christian Custodio are in grade school. and Rachel Manadong is in 3rd year high school at St. Vincent Rolling Hills School. Jomer Pabalan is Grade 6 at Payatas Elementary School. while Ricadonna Sayson is in 3rd year at Kasiglahan Village 1 high School.

As it did last year. the House of Representatives ' Committee on Oversight chaired by Congressman Joey Sarte Salceda has undertaken and independent assessment of the SONA achievements. We are again gratified that the Committee's preliminary report notes "a substantial positive compliance by the President and her team to the SONA 2002 commitments ." Of the 32 targets monitored by the Committee. the Administration's performance was rated positive in 21 areas.

In her 2002 SONA. the Presidents declared: "The Strong Republic does what it says." Nowhere is this truism demonstrated more clearly than in her Administration's solid SONA performance record.

New life for central Mindanao evacuees

By Odessa T. Victoriano

COTABATO CITY—Call them the innocents of war—the victims who suffered the collateral damage of a conflict into which they were sucked.

But thanks to a caring and concerned central government, the thousands of evacuees caught in the skirmishes between the military and combatants of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Central Mindanao can now look forward to a new beginning and a new life.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo envisions a better life ahead for evacuees in her administration's efforts to rehabilitate and develop war-ravaged areas in Mindanao.

From the comfort of their homes and farmlands, civilians affected by the conflict were forced to flee to congested evacuation centers.

There, they subsist on food provided by government agencies and various private organizations, with their children and old folks suffering from common diseases.

But Ms. Macapagal, aware of the evacuees' plight, ordered an immediate solution to this problem.

In 18 evacuation camps in Pikit, North Cotabato housing some 45,000 evacuees, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has already poured some P3 million worth of assistance, mostly on food.

But government assistance did not stop there.

Immediately after the military's seizure of MILF strongholds in Central Mindanao, the President released P5 million for the rehabilitation of the Buliok Complex in Pikit, the main enclave of the MILF before government troops overran it.

A big fraction of the money was used to finance the distribution of corn seedlings for farmers through the provincial government's Social Economic Enhancement and Development in Pikit, (SEED-Pikit).

Continuing rehabilitation efforts by the government also paved the way for the construction of core shelters and livelihood assistance to some 620 families of the affected villages in Pikit.

Monera Lidasan, DSWD-12 senior official, said these families were recipients of core shelters worth P25,000 each.

Lidasan said the P15.5-million funding for the core shelters was already released to various local government units that are now managing the construction of shelters in their respective areas.

Apart from this, a P2.7-million fund was released for the repair of partially damaged houses of some 415 families.

Core shelter units

To date, 130 of the core shelter units have already been distributed to the beneficiaries, a signal of the return of normalcy to the area.

Only last week, the President facilitated the distribution of certificates of ownership and P5,000 livelihood assistance to 25 beneficiaries of finished core houses in Barangay Kabalasan, Pikit town.

Another 982 of similar shelters are still up for construction in the nearby towns of Kabacan, Mlang, Carmen, Aleosan and Columbio in Sultan Kudarat.

"It's only a matter of time. We have intensified our efforts to build these core shelters as soon as possible because this is what the President wants, to return the evacuees to their former homes so that they can resume their normal lives the soonest possible time," Lidasan said.

Earlier in the Pagalungan, Maguindanao side of the Buliok Complex, high-ranking government officials facilitated the turnover of an Islamic Center formerly used by MILF chair Salamat Hashim as his hideout.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman said the President has assured the residents that the government will help them begin a new life.

Adam Lagasan, 42, a local farmer and one of the more than 26,000 residents who fled their homes in Pagalungan when skirmishes spilled over their area, expressed relief over the promised core shelters.

"It has been months now and we are already tired. I hope the President would stick to her promise. We want to again rebuild our old lives in the comfort and safety of our own homes," Lagasan said in Visayan dialect.

Lagasan and fellow farmers visit their villages in the morning to tend their farms and return to the evacuation shelters at night due to fears that hostilities may erupt anew.

"Though this effort, our trust in the government is now slowly being restored," said Manston Mamasalangad, 37, a cousin of Lagasan.

Another evacuee, 22-year-old Fatima Alipio who became a volunteer for Tabang Mindanao, said: "Thank you, President Arroyo, because we can now go home! Life is more beautiful in our villages than in the crowded evacuation centers."

Soliman said her office would also soon extend livelihood assistance to women in the affected communities.

The DSWD is now developing ways to provide the women the know-how to earn and support themselves so that they not just depend on dole-outs from the government or NGOs.

PRESIDENT Arroyo tastes 'lanzones' during her visit to Kabasalan in Pikit, North Cotabato.

25-year-old Davaoeño…

From page B17

Not far behind in surpassing revenue targets is the BOC under leadership of commissioner Tony Bernardo.

Bernardo recently reported that the BOC exceeded its tax collection target by P568 million for June. This represents an increase of 15.8 percent compared to last year and is 10.6 percent above the target.

"We attribute this increase to radical reforms aimed at plugging loopholes to what are already outdated collection measures," Bernardo said.

Bernardo added that closer monitoring of all arriving shipments and ensured that these are properly declared, valued and assessed the correct taxes and duties.

"If the upward trend continues, we will even surpass our assigned target of P100.056 billion for 2003," Bernardo said.

Upbeat and optimistic, Camacho averred that the increased revenue collection would do well in cutting the budget deficit-a fitting legacy for the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

"But we can only achieve this through the cooperation of our people. And it is now a matter of fact that such cooperation can come with its rewards, just like in the case of Alvin," said Camacho.

> The increased revenue collection would do well in cutting the budget deficit—a fitting legacy for the Macapagal-Arroyo administration

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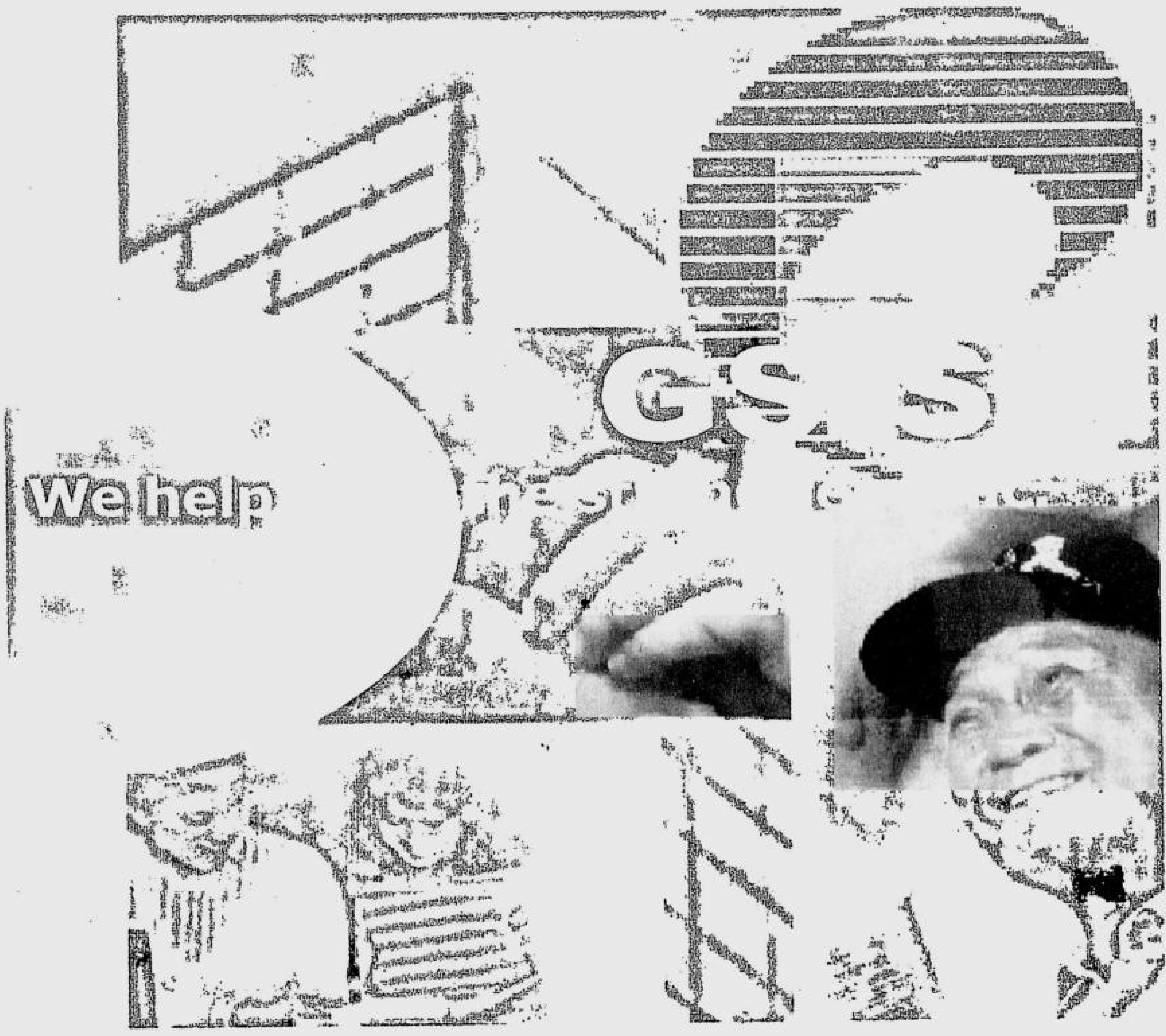


TAKING SARS BY THE HORNS

Display of Filipino unity, collective determination

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads residents of Lubao, Pampanga in a nationwide Barangay Clean-up Drive against SARS.

By Mediatrix P. Cristobal

ALCALA, Pangasinan is a quiet sleepy town populated by simple-living villagers, far from the hustle-bustle of the metropolis.

Its roads are barely paved, its outskirts adorned by lush golden rice fields over which clear blue skies peer on its bounty.

Day starts even before the break of dawn, as people tread their way to the fields to begin their daily tasks of either planting crops or managing fishponds. The day ends with families gathering before dinner, thanking God for the food on the table.

So innocent and perfect; yet, Alcala, Pangasinan was destined to find its way through the front pages of the national dailies.

The quiet sleepy town became the seat of scare, not because of typical paranormal folklore or myths.

It was chosen as the first destination in the country by the world's dreaded disease at the time: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Filipinos' eyes focused on Barangay Vacante, Alcala, hometown of Adela and Mauricio Catalon. Adela, 46, acquired SARS in Toronto, Canada, where she worked as a nurse in a home for the aged. She was the first SARS fatality in the Philippines.

Mauricio, 74, Adela's father, cancer-stricken, was infected by his daughter, and was considered the first case of local transmission. He was the country's second SARS fatality.

Following the death of the Catalons, the government stepped up programs to contain the spread of the SARS virus, putting the entire village under a three-week quarantine.

After more than two weeks without new cases of SARS reported in the area, Regional Health Director Eduardo Janairo ordered the quarantine lifted immediately.

On May 2, in a visit to the town, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the residents of Barangay Vacante, saying: "This experience could be adopted as a model throughout the country in the relentless fight against SARS, wherever SARS strikes."

As of May 22, the country had a cumulative total of 84 SARS suspects in local hospitals. Of the number, 80 have been discharged from the hospital.

P1.5B vs SARS

But this did not stop the government from further intensifying its campaign against SARS. The government allotted P1.5 billion for the SARS task force.

Calamity funds were dispersed by local government units for a reach-out program to educate villagers in all towns nationwide on how to prevent the spread of the virus, as the sanitation of barangays was enforced.

Tapped was the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to spearhead the campaign.

"We were given guidelines meant to ensure that provincial governors, city and municipal mayors and barangay officials know how to deal with the killer disease," Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. said.

"Local officials should dispel rumors and calm down the people when panic grips the community due to false and misleading information about SARS," Lina said.

Further, these officials should communicate information about the disease and its prevention and control, he said.

Officials should also conduct public dialogues with health authorities, police officials, the business community, civil society and the general public on SARS prevention and control, he added.

In Davao, at the height of SARS panic, Dr. Gerardo Cunanan of the Davao Medical City advised people to calm down. Locals refused medical check-ups out of fear of finding out they have SARS.

"Ignorance on SARS is the mother of panic and paranoia; people believe that if you have SARS, you're dead. It's not true. Ninety percent of SARS patients survive. It's not very fatal," Cunanan said.

"Unless properly addressed, SARS may create a negative impact on business productivity, tourism and mobility of citizens, not to mention deaths. In extreme situations, lack of information or misinformation on SARS may even lead to social unrest in a community," Lina said.

Meanwhile, a week before the school year started, the Department of Education mandated teachers and parents or guardians of students to attend a series of symposia on SARS education and prevention.

Students, on the other hand, were trained on how to prevent the spread of the virus on the first day of classes.

"They told me to wash my hands before and after eating, and I should take my Vitamin C everyday," said Joy Alejandrino, a grade two student of a Catholic school in Manila.

5 specialists

The Department of Health combined the knowledge of five specialists, composed of five experts from the Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Philippine College of Chest Physicians, National Epidemiology Center, Makati Medical Center and World Health Organization, who regularly meet on Tuesday and Thursday to make official recommendations on SARS cases and suspects.

"Since the country has limited exposure to actual SARS cases, an attending physician might miss out important findings on the lungs because he or she is not a pulmonologist or a pulmonologist may miss out the patient's epidemiologist. Decision on special disease is not the call of any single physician," Dr. Consorcia Lim-Quizon, DOH head executive assistant National Epidemiology Center (NEC) said.

The country's team effort did not end with theoretical frameworks. Substantial implementation was done on possible entrances of virus-carriers.

Airport and seaport security was tight, each incoming and outgoing overseas Filipino worker (OFW) was thoroughly examined. Those found with the virus were sent on a three-week quarantine.

President Arroyo praised health and airport officials for their vigilance to contain the spread of the virus.

The team effort done by the delegated agencies in SARS prevention has efficiently put the Philippines in safe condition.

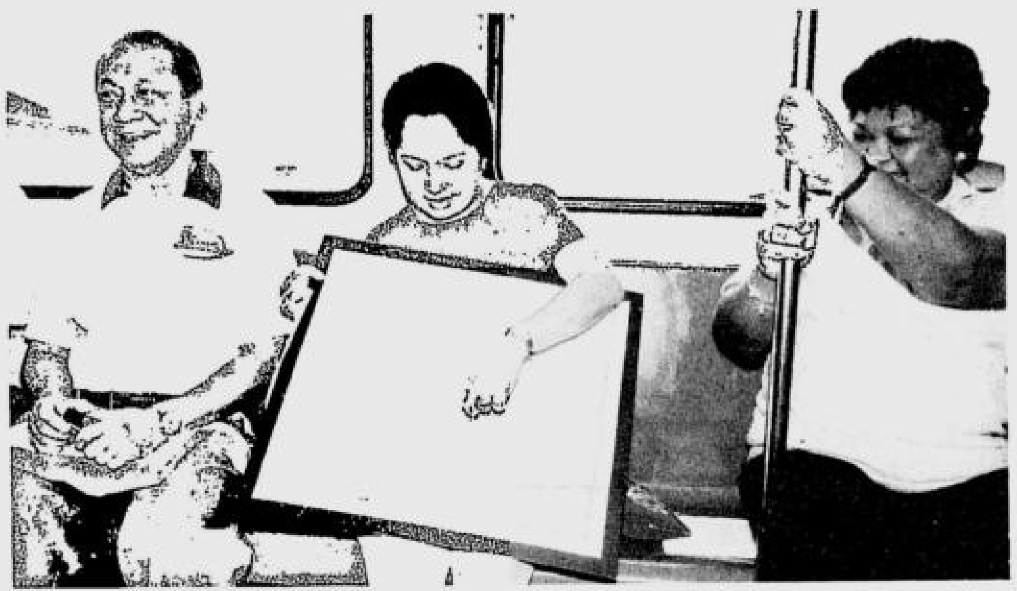
On May 21, the Philippines was declared SARS-free as WHO delisted the country from the list of SARS-infected nations.

According to WHO, if a SARS-infected country did not have any SARS case for 20 days after the last reported case, it would be considered SARS-free. The Catalons were the last reported SARS cases.

The Philippines has remained a resilient nation. Like a bamboo, it sways and bows to every whip of strong winds or the storm, yet no amount of tumultuous force can bring it down.

Filipinos have proven their resilience through past crises. The July 16 earthquake that shook Baguio and Cabanatuan; the Pinatubo eruption, the numerous storms and floods never broke the spirit of a people who have been historical survivors-all because they united to weather any storm that comes their way.

The nation once again triumphed over SARS.



THE PRESIDENT, riding the light rail transit, shows the route of the newly launched SRTS or the Strong Republic Transit Systems.

Ro-Ro boosts tourism, trade and transport

ISLAND-HOPPING tourists and travelers, whether foreign or local, need not leap from one bus to another or from bus to ship to another bus. Neither do the huge cargo trucks laden with the products and agricultural produce have to load, unload and reload from port to port.

The Roll-On, Roll-Off (Ro-Ro) ferry services between Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao have made such tiresome and costly tasks a thing of the past.

The advent of the Ro-Ro shipping service has even boosted business and trade, including tourism, despite the slowdown of the global economy following the outbreak of the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in some parts of the world.

Department of Tourism (DOT) Regional Director Edwin Trompeta, based in Iloilo City, said domestic tourists continue to pour into the Boracay Island resort in Aklan to compensate the shortfall of foreigners visiting the world-renowned beach.

Tourist arrival in Boracay registered 185,044 from January to May this year, representing a 3.02-percent hike from last year's figure during the same period.

"This is because of the big number of domestic tourists numbering 153,242 who visited the island," he said.

Tourist arrivals in Boracay generated P3.4 billion for local hotel owners and other service providers in the island.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said the creation of a commodity road map, the first of its kind in the country, would guarantee easy access to commodities such as rice, corn, livestock, vegetables and aquaculture.

Lorenzo said the commodity road map cuts travel time from Luzon to Visayas to Mindanao and vice versa, therefore, reducing farm produce prices into half.

He said that through the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH), produce from Western Mindanao could be brought to Batangas City from Dapitan in Mindanao via Dumaguete, Caticlan, Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas and Calapan in Mindoro Oriental.

"Never has any government done this linkage which would consequently open up new market in trade that would improve the lives of farmers by increasing their income through direct access to market," Lorenzo stressed.

He said the archipelagic nature of the country limits movement of people and goods. Thus, there's a need to interconnect the major islands to maximize their potentials for industrialists, farmers and agri-businessmen.

Lorenzo said the interconnection would consequently open up areas for more vigorous and active economic activities, thereby creating employment and increasing the income of the populace in the area.

He said the rice commodity road map is aimed at closing the import gap while increasing the productivity and income of farmers.

On tourism, with the SRNH stretch, people from Mindoro going to Boracay no longer have to take the long and risky trip on a banca. Ro-Ro ferries effectively link the two points.

Right now, there are two Ro-Ro ferries plying the Nautical Highway to Boracay-the M/V Maharlika 3 and the Montenegro Lines.

The M/V Maharlika 3 departs Caticlan, Aklan at 3 p.m. and then proceeds to Roxas in Mindoro. It usually takes 17 hours from Caticlan via land and sea to reach Batangas City.

Buses of Philtranco, considered as the country's oldest and most durable bus company, take passengers going to Manila from Iloilo City to Caticlan where they board the Ro-Ro ferry.

Bachelor buses of Ceres Line, another company, now conveniently transport passengers from Iloilo to Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao via the Ro-Ro. They board the Ro-Ro ferry here to Bacolod City from where they take the land trip to Dumaguete where another Ro-Ro transports it to Cagayan de Oro City.

Ceres Line officials said two of their bus units daily take the Strong Republic Nautical Highway to Bacolod City for their Cagayan de Oro route. Since the Nautical Highway was opened April, they said their buses are always full of passengers.

"We have a 53-seating capacity per bus and it's almost always fully-occupied," they said.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) said it now receives inquiries from both passengers and cargo handlers on how they could avail themselves of the roll-on roll-off facilities.

Ro-Ro now serves as the cheapest transport means compared to the normal transport system.

Rex Hidalgo, a passenger, said travel via the Strong Republic Nautical Highway may be quite tiring as expected, but it also very instructional and rewarding because it affords one to visit many places first hand.

"It is good for an adventurous soul," Hidalgo quipped.

Food Security for a Strong Republic

Thank you Madame President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, for bringing into reality a Strong Republic through Food Security.

Following your 2002-2003 SONA directives, NFA developed programs that would improve the lives of our farmers, the true vanguards of our national food security. Local procurement was aggressively pursued through increased mobile buying units and through our **FARMERS AS DISTRIBUTOR (FAD)** program, a total of 684 farmer organizations have already distributed 1,355,321 bags of NFA rice in the local market. In a landmark effort to financially empower the farmer, he has been allowed to import rice through the **FARMERS AS IMPORTERS (FAI)** program. Of the 400,000 metric tons of food security stocks allocated to them, the volume of 315,993 has already been contracted for arrival by August 2003. Still, we do not forget our commitment to make rice and other basic food commodities available and affordable to the low-income consumer. We continue to deploy some 490 **TINDAHAN NI GLORIA LABANDERA Rolling Stores** in selected remote and depressed areas all over the country. Our Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera sa Barangay (stationary outlets) sell rice in 2,894 sites nationwide. We have opened 1,686 Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke to exclusively sell good quality NFA rice at P16 per kg in all public markets across the country. As of June 30, 2003, these BGPs have sold 1,768,913 bags of rice.

Following Her Excellency's directive to ensure transparency and draw the government closer to the people, we have also launched Text-NFA (0917-6210927), a text messaging system where the public can make suggestions, inquiries and complaints on NFA's services.

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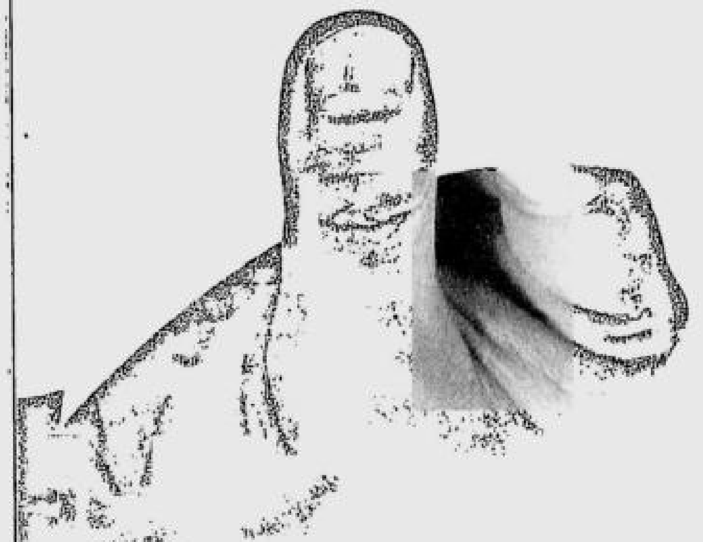

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THEIR TURN TO MAKE SACRIFICES

'We have already paid price of free trade'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will take a defiant stand in the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico in September.

The country will reject any moves to further open up the local market and put in place more defenses against subsidized agriculture products from the US, EU, Japan and the Cairns group.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo says the Philippines would only consent to opening up its sensitive agriculture products only if developed countries remove the multi-billion dollar subsidies they use to prop up their farmers that the WTO has legitimized.

Lorenzo notes that unbridled trade liberalization has focused only on eliminating the main defense of developing countries—tariffs—while ignoring other equally important issues such as export price support and farm subsidies.

While developing countries have paid their dues in trade liberalization, Lorenzo says developed countries continue to demand more.

"We have already paid the price of free trade and now its their turn to make their sacrifices. We have weighed them on how they have opened their markets, and we have found them wanting compared to our achievements," Lorenzo says.

In the upcoming Cancun negotiations, Lorenzo says the Philippines will push the WTO to allow members to maintain duties on special or strategic products beyond 2004.

Lorenzo says it was necessary for developing countries to reduce at their own pace the duties on sensitive agricultural products because of their importance to food and livelihood security and rural development. This was in keeping with the Doha Development Agenda which mandated the implementation of special and differential treatment for developing countries.

In the Philippines' case, this would mean relief for local farmers producing corn, sugar, livestock and poultry whose duties range from 35 to 50 percent. This would also allow the government to keep duties on these products' substitutes such as barley, wheat and rye.

Aside from maintaining tariffs, Lorenzo says the Philippines will bat for the implementation of enhanced safeguard mechanisms that would allow WTO members to charge higher duties on products threatened by cheap imports.

He says that these safeguard measures could only be used by developing countries unlike the current system where even developed countries can avail of these protective measures.

Lorenzo says the Philippines would also demand that developed countries be allowed to identify on their own what products would be covered by the special defense measures.

LORENZO: We have weighed them on how they have opened their markets, and we have found them wanting compared to our achievements.

"These should not be dictated by the other countries or negotiated like the IMF-WB because of their importance to a country's development programs and policies," Lorenzo says. "The only thing negotiable is the volume of products that would be protected."

"Given the intransigence of developed countries to maintain large subsidies, we must be adequately armed with these defense mechanisms to protect rural sectors," he adds.

Lorenzo states these "bottomline proposal" for the WTO talks has been championed by Indonesia which has decided to spearhead the recruitment of countries to build up an alternative in Cancun.

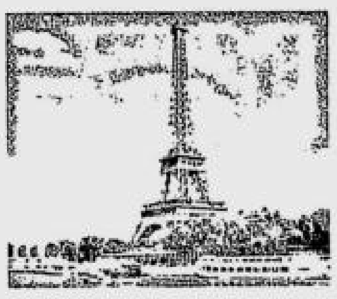
Over the last four weeks, Lorenzo says the Philippines and Indonesia have obtained the support of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

He says several countries have signified their intention to join the bloc such as the People's Republic of China, South Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean Community.

"Short of signing, these countries are in agreement but they require explicit clearances from their respective capitals," Lorenzo says.

Developing countries might have been unwittingly swept into signing an agreement to open up their market nearly two decades ago. But Lorenzo says developing countries would come prepared and that they would demand a payback from the developed countries for their sacrifices.

Even EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy admits things have changed drastically at the WTO. While all WTO agreements were agreed upon by both North America and Europe in the past, Lamy says any deal would need the consent of developing countries to be carried out.



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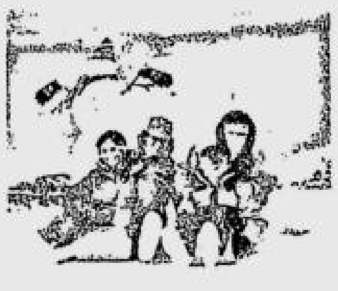

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For niche market, global excellence, try outsourcing

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

ILOCOS Norte, around 5400 BC. Having crossed a land bridge from China, a *proto-Filipino* takes another sip from his strange brew made from fermented barley. Colored yellow, the drink makes him feel tipsy, more talkative, and happy. He grins as he hatches his plan.

He will call the drink "beer" and trade it to get the other stuff he needs.

Brewing will be his core competency. He will just outsource the other tasks like capturing food, cooking it, and preserving it. He's no ordinary hunter-gatherer, he's a master brewer.

Outsourcing not really new

Well, that's not exactly the way outsourcing began, but it really goes back to primitive times. Families and tribes started by producing their own food, clothing, footwear and shelter. Then they learned that some were more expert at planting or weaving or brick-making.

So each hunter-gatherer focused on his core competency and outsourced other services. Fishermen traded with spear craftsmen and pottery artisans.

They specialized on what they did best and outsourced the rest, even to neighboring tribes.

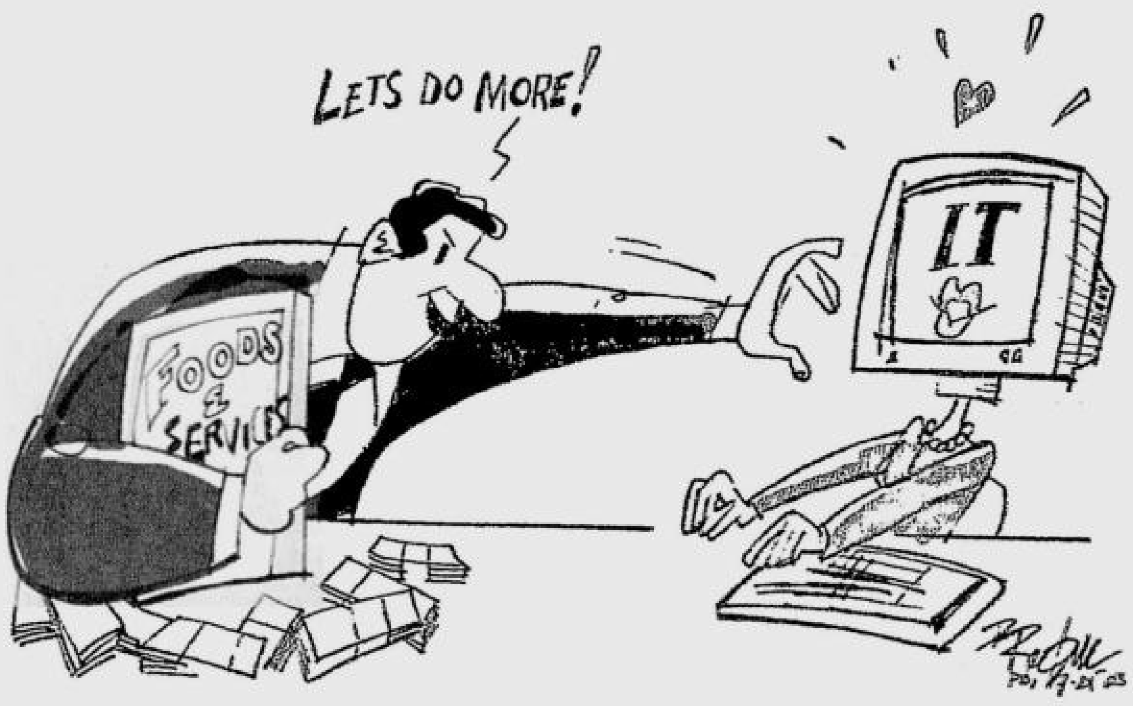
In the 21st century, American and European firms are outsourcing their back office tasks to the Philippines and India. There is tremendous room for growth here. But Filipino firms should realize that they can benefit much from outsourcing many processes.

From security to business processes

Your company has probably tried a little outsourcing. Take for example the security guards in your building. Top management surely did not train them from scratch to be the in-house security. Rather, your firm hired the guards from a security agency. The same pattern holds for food services as well. You invite various caterers to operate the corporate canteen.

In the 1970s, the main outsourcing thrust was facilities management. You contacted firms to do your maintenance work. In the 1980s, it was information technology. Companies would contract the IT experts to set up and manage their computer systems.

In the 1990s the trend has expanded to business processes. You hire others to crunch your numbers, handle your customer care, and hunt for the brightest heads on campus. In the 3rd millennium, the new element is global scope. Thanks to the Internet, firms can outsource their business processes to companies on the other side of the planet.



Partner of niche marketing

Outsourcing allows firms to cut costs and free up capital. It helps share risks and rewards. It extends a firm's reach to global levels. In turn, it empowers companies to face up to global competition. Outsourcing enables firms to leverage a country's limited supply of skilled IT manpower. It also delegates the task of keeping up with the breakneck changes in technology. A firm in Manila can tap the updated expertise of IT professionals in Spain.

Outsourcing is the natural partner of niche-marketing. It makes sense to find a specific niche and excel in it to the heights of world-class excellence. But a firm usually can't be number one in all its functions.

It can't be all things to all men. It thus makes sense to outsource the tasks which are not its core competencies. Strategic alliances are formed.

For example, in a radical move, Kodak outsourced practically all its IT operations. That allowed it to focus on its core competency of imaging technology. Xerox and Philips followed the same path later.

Information technology is key

"Outsourcing is a strategic move for many companies especially in these highly competitive times," says Charito Barretto, strategic outsourcing practice leader for Soluziona, the Madrid-based professional services firm.

"In most cases, it's their IT operations that are being outsourced because it plays a crucial role in global competitiveness." Soluziona offers business transformation through management technology.

Information technology is a key to explosive growth in the information age.

Notice how companies like Smart and Globe use telecommunications to create immense value and wealth out of thin air. But IT is also complex and rapidly changing. A sturdy IT backbone is vital for a company, yet too many pesos and people devoted to it may distract a company from its core activities.

Hub for Asia-Pacific

"Especially for large companies, it would be too much for them to handle complex IT activities on their own," says Barretto. Her firm, Soluziona, offers to manage corporations' IT operations. Soluziona taps its experts in more than 40 countries worldwide, providing comprehensive consulting solutions. It's turning Manila into the hub for its Asia-Pacific operations.

"We have key global partnerships with several IT vendors. Through these partnerships, we are able to maintain the skills needed to support our clients' IT infrastructures," adds Barretto.

Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>

Was there bias in Comelec bid?

MAPping THE FUTURE
Manuel A. Alcuaz

THE COMMISSION on Elections is entrusted with the conduct of fair and honest elections. It is important that the Comelec acts without bias and personal interest.

It is sad that many sectors of civil society, professionals in the IT industry and business are raising very serious questions about the way the Comelec has conducted the bidding for its P3-billion modernization project.

The Comelec Modernization Program has been structured into three phases: voters validation system, automated counting and canvassing, electronic transmission/consolidation and dissemination of results.

There is a consensus that automated counting and canvassing is needed.

Many senior IT and management professionals raised doubts over the necessity and cost effectiveness of Phases I and III.

In its invitation for bids, Comelec prepared an executive summary with a professional format:

1. Problems being addressed
2. Required solutions

The Comelec cited the following problems with regard to voters registration.

1. Padded and bloated CVLs due to old software and hardware which cannot consolidate at provincial level
2. Understated CVLs due to limited voter's registration record forms and local election officers who refuse to register some voters
3. Juggled CVLs are brought about by last minute clustering of precincts, last minute transferring of voters names from one CVL to another and absence and non-posting of permanent precinct maps.

Although there is some disagreement as to the extent of multiple registrations.

However, the Comelec's proposed solution does not seem to make sense—a P1-billion high technology system to capture voters demographics, fingerprints, signature and facial images. This very expensive project will not address any of the problems cited by Comelec.

Electronically capturing fingerprints, signatures and pictures of a fraction of the voters will not cleanse bloated voters lists. The Comelec still has to give the voters lists at the precinct level to political parties and civic organizations who will have to do house-to-house verification of voters.

If some voters were unable to register because of lack of forms or political pressure, Comelec just needs to print more forms and fight political pressure. A P1-billion high tech system is not needed.

Again, problems due to last minute precinct clustering and voter transfers does not need a P1 billion system, it needs a more professional Comelec.

The Comelec says it needs a P1-billion Voters Validation System, did it conduct an unbiased bid?

There were 57 interested parties that paid P15,000 for bid documents. How come there were only 1 or 2 qualified bidders for each of the three phases?

It looks like pass or fail criteria for eligibility were set too tightly. As a result, many bidders who could have submitted more favorable bids were eliminated. Miraculously one or two qualified.

A reading of the bid specs shows that there is an apparent bias for a specific vendor. The bid document reads as follows:

The specific objectives of VVS are the following: 1. Validate electronically as many voters' records as feasible in time for 2004 elections using processes and technologies that will remain compatible with future components of the envisioned elections modernization program of the Commission.

How can a bidder make his bid compatible with a future system that has not yet been selected? Does the Comelec already know what system they will select in the future? The document says that Precinct Mapping is input but not part of VVS.

In their statement of problems, lack of permanent precinct maps was cited as a problem! With P1 billion to spend, how come there is no provision for precinct mapping?

The bid invitation specifies the following Key Contractor Screening Criteria:

The contractor must be a major player in the local and global public sector IT business in general and should have a relevant and proven track record in modern elections management area and specific experience in the systems integration of an automated system similar to the VVS.

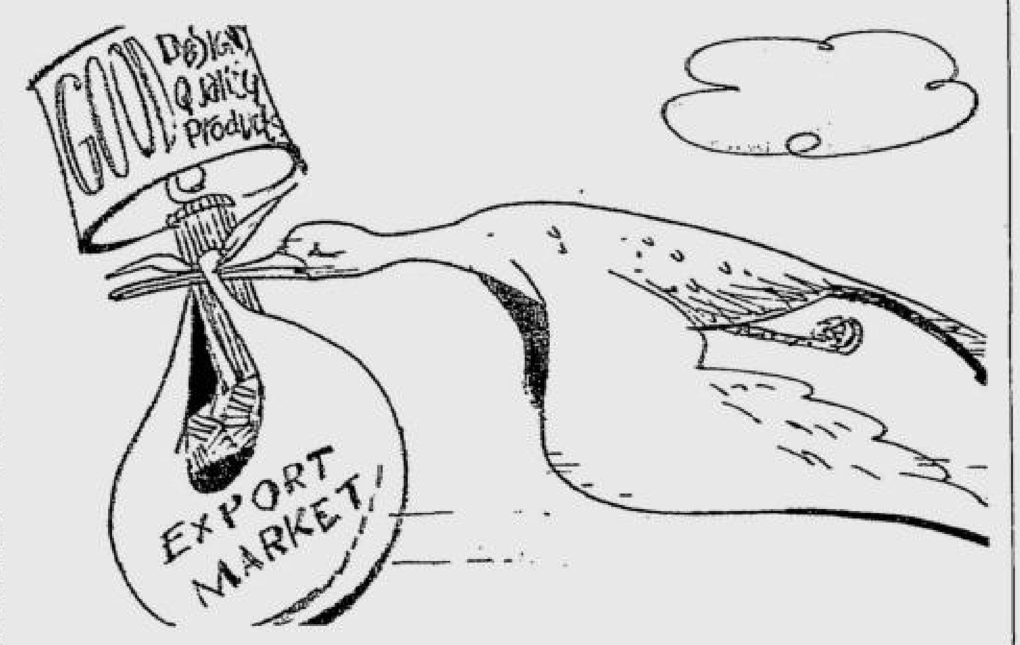
The contractor must have significant presence in the Philippines.

Additionally, it is desirable that the contractor must be doing or has done systems integration projects of a similar scale, complexity and criticality in the public sector in the Philippines.

WAS THERE/ B2-7

Exporting in a nutshell

By Arlene E. Liberal
Contributor, UP ISSI



OVER a year ago, I interviewed a local exporter of bamboo handicrafts. He actually started with bamboo furniture, but shifted when he found there was a bigger market for bamboo torches and candle lamp shades and other décor items.

Since he was an active member of the industry association in his locality and the association was in turn being assisted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) he was able to participate in the national and international trade fairs organized by DTI. He was also able to avail of technical assistance from the Product Design and Development Center (PDDC).

He related that the assistance of PDDC was crucial because the consultant put him in touch with what was "in" in terms of designs for the season, e.g., the candle lamp shades. The consultant helped him cost each product. Knowing the costs in turn guided him in setting product prices. In addition, the consultant helped him set up his booth during the international trade fair, create the right ambiance, and attract buyer.

While he had to pay for the services of the consultant, this expense paid off handsomely when he made the sales. Actually, PDDC-DTI arranged it in such a way that the consultant visited several small producers in the locality so that the cost was split among them.

Good designs, good quality products priced reasonably and delivered on time—these are what the export market is looking for. It also prefers to do business with companies that neither harm the environment nor exploit their workers.

The other aspect in export marketing that one cannot do away with is procedural. Here's a rundown of these steps which involves paper chasing in government offices:

Producing to fulfill the orders

According to the manual "Exporting At A Glance," published by PhilExport, following are the steps in exporting:

Upon receiving the confirmation of order, the exporter starts production, or if the exporter is just a trader, he or she starts to purchase goods from the suppliers. The goods are then labeled, packed and marked for shipment.

Export declaration (ED). Export Declaration (ED) with Foreign Exchange Proceeds is a form required by the Central Bank (CB) to be filled with an authorized agent bank (AAB) by an exporter who is ready to ship the goods.

Export shipment on no-dollar basis is covered by an ED without foreign exchange proceeds issued by an AAB.

Samples, specimens for promotional and testing purposes, advertising materials bearing the name/trademark of the exporter maybe given due course by an AAB without prior CB approval

Commodity clearance/ certificate of exemption. If the products to be exported are listed under Executive Order 1016, the exporter applies for Export Commodity Clearance /Certificate of Exemption from the Government Commodity Office concerned.

Briefly, the following products are controlled, prohibited and/or banned and the respective commodity offices handling them:

- planting materials of abaca and ramie (Fiber Industry Development Authority—Fida)
- all plants and planting materials (Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
- antiques and cultural artifacts (National Museum),
- aircraft (Dept. of Transportation and Communication)
- *bangus* fry and "mother" *bangus* (Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)), *buri* planting materials (BPI)
- cement and clinker (Board of Investment)
- coffee (International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency—DTI)
- firearms, ammunition and explosives, Philippine National Police—DILG)
- garments and textile (Garments and Textile Export Board), gold except primary and secondary gold (Central Bank), grains and grains-by product (National Food Authority)
- lumber, poles, piles, railroad ties (Forest Mgt. Bureau—Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
- mature coconut and seedling of coconut (Phil. Coconut Authority)
- motion pictures / TV shows (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board), natural fibers (Fida)
- oil and petroleum products (Energy Regulatory Board)
- Philippine currency (Bangko Sentral)
- prawn spawn and fry (BFAR), raw materials for cottage industries (DTI)
- shells (BFAR)
- wildlife specie of flora and fauna and processed forest products (Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau).

Authority to load (A/L). The exporter proceeds to the Export Division of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) where the authorized officer will approve the A/L found of the ED forms (1 and 3). The ED, the commercial invoice and all other supporting documents will be perforated with an Export Entry Number.

If the goods will be shipped by sea, the exporter pays the arrastre charges to the Arrastre Contractor in the port of loading and the wharfage fees at the Philippine Ports Authority. There are no arrastre charges if exporting is done through the air cargo facility.

Firms registered with the Board of Investment and the Export Processing Zone Authority are exempted from paying the wharfage fees.

For cargoes loaded in Metro Manila:

Conventional cargoes to be transported by ship, whether in a container van or not, are inspected by Customs Container Control Division (CCCD) and the Pier and Inspection Division (PID) respectively after payment of the wharfage fees and arrastre charges. The offices of CCCD and PID are located in the Port Area.

Cargoes to be transported by air cargo are inspected by the BOC at the Naia.

For other areas (such as Cebu or Davao), the same agencies are present in their respective piers or airports.

Bill of Lading (B/L) and Airway Bill (AWB). Upon loading, the customs inspector signs the Report of Loading (for sea freight) and Report of Lading (for air freight). The exporter also secures the B/L from the shipping line or the AWB from the airline for the air freight.

Other documents

After loading, the BOC gives the exporter the following Documents upon request:

Certificate of Origin, Form A—for export products covered by the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); or General Certificate of Origin,—for export products not availing of preferences under GSP; or Certificate of Origin, Form C—for export products covered by the Asean Preferred Tariff Agreement (Asean-PTA).Certificate of shipment.

Getting paid

Payment for exports should be made through banks and this bank is called the authorized agent bank (AAB).

There are many modes of payment for export.

1) Documents against acceptance:

As soon as buyers agree to buy the products, the shipping documents (exporter's bill of exchange) for the goods are sent to the foreign bank (representing the buyer), thus the buyer is obliged to pay the export shipment.

2) Document against payment:

The shipping documents are released to buyer (through his bank) only upon payment of the shipment thru the AAB.

3) Bank draft

This is a bill of exchange issued and drawn by a bank abroad upon another bank, in favor of the exporter, which is payable on demand or at some future date and received by the AAB prior to the shipment.

4) Traveller's check

Payment by traveller's check is applicable only if the shipment is not more than US$ 3,000.

5) Letter of Credit

A letter of credit is a written understanding or obligation of a bank, made at the re-

EXPORTING/ B2-7

Philippine Appliance Industry Association, Inc.

Unity Towards Uplifting Filipino Lives

PAIA

Meaning of the logo

CREATED in Jan. 23 this year, and registered with the SEC on Jan. 27, PAIA is the latest effort of the appliance industry to consolidate its forces towards one unified and solid front that can further the causes and interests of the industry.

PAIA has created a symbol or logo for its standard for quality.

The logo 'we have chosen has three bars forming a triangle like arms linked together. Each bar represents each of the three product groups of the appliance industry — the brown lines, white lines and convenience items. We chose red as a color of the bars, representing the dynamism of the organization, and blue for the high quality products being offered by PAIA member companies.

The logo is a mark or symbol of quality and reliability of the product, which means that when a customer buys a product with the PAIA logo, he can expect the following:

- The product does what it says it is going to do
- The product is well supported by the manufacturer
- The product has an after sales support service
- The product performs as it is supposed to, and
- The company that carries the product has a proven track record for quality.

Our long-term plan is to make the PAIA standard of quality an important factor in the purchasing decisions of the Filipino consumers and to give them a guarantee that they will be getting their money's worth for every peso they spend.

That is PAIA's contribution to consumer welfare.

'A better, larger organization to take head-on the issues affecting the appliance industy'

By Joel V. Nigos

THERE are some key things we have to know about the appliance industry in the Philippines. First, it contributes from P80 billion to P100 billion to the nation's economy every year. With that huge industry, it becomes a major generator of employment. It creates further employment because whatever is produced by the industry every year needs servicing, thus contributing to the growth of the service sector.

Appliances have also become more affordable. What used to be the P1,000 per inch cost ratio for TV sets has gone down to P500 per inch cost ratio, and that's despite inflation and the depreciation of the peso. This serves the consumers well and true to the thrust of the industry to make appliances available to every Filipino.

Amidst these present bright prospects, the industry is faced with major challenges.

In terms of saturation, only a small percentage of Filipinos own appliances. The numbers are quite dismal: 10 out of 100 people have airconditioners, 3-4 out of 10 families have a refrigerator and 2 out of 10 have a washing machine. Only TV is quite high at a 70-percent saturation level along with the other audio-video appliances.

The industry is also not spared from the proliferation of substandard and second-hand appliances. And the country having 7,100 is-

BETTER/ B2-5

SHOWN are CEOs, presidents and high ranking officials and official representatives of member companies

PAIA Launching

ONE in championing PAIA's theme of "Unity towards the uplifting of Filipino lives," member-companies joined together during the launching of PAIA held July 23 at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City. Previous organizations, namely CEPMA, AHAM, CHEF and PEEAIF, which have steered the appliance industry during the last four decades, were given tribute during the program. Past presidents of the previous organizations were also recognized. The keynote speech was given by Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. After the new officers of PAIA took their oath and member-companies recognized, there was a short talk on the "Trends and Outlook of the Philippine Appliance Industry." Board chair Raul Joseph Concepcion later discussed PAIA policies and directions.

PHILIPPINE APPLIANCE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,INC.
Theme "UNITY TOWARDS THE UPLIFTING OF FILIPINO LIVES"
23 July 2003, 6:00 P.M., Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City

MEMBERS of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Appliance Industry Association (PAIA) take their oath during PAIA's launching held July 23 at Dusit Hotel. (From left) Fernanditas Malit, president; Abbe Daza, Internal Auditor; Christopher Guido, treasurer: Emmanuel Valencia, VP-External; Andrew Ahorro, VP-Internal; and Raul Joseph Concepcion, chairman.

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IT IS with great pleasure that I greet the men and women of the Philippine Appliance Industry Association Inc. (PAIA) on the launching of your organization.

The protection of consumer's rights to safe, high quality and accessible products and services is both a challenge and a duty. Nevertheless, our administration is committed to uphold this vital right of the Filipino consumers with the formation and effective implementation of laws that address their varying concerns.

Consistent with our efforts, we welcome this milestone event that would benefit both the appliance industry and the Filipino consumer. By complying with high and accepted standards, we can be assured that we will have the best appliances in the market and thus, promote the growth of the industry.

I applaud the predecessor organizations and their respective leaders for having the foresight and the determination to come together so that you shall be able to advance your concerns. May you pursue excellence with the utmost zeal so that our appliance industry will be at par with the best in the world.

More power and congratulations to a job well done.

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR warmest greetings to the officers and board of directors of the Philippine Appliance Industry Association Inc. (PAIA) on the launching of your new consolidated grouping.

The launching of the newly established PAIA is a milestone event that would definitely strengthen the competitiveness of the local appliance industry and steer local industry players towards generating much improved and more innovative products and further contribute to investment generation, employment creation and the promotion of consumer welfare.

It is heartening to note that the integration of the industry would now work only towards the achievement of the industry's collective vision to strengthen and build a solid foundation for the appliance industry but also towards a more collaborative and meaningful partnership with various industries and the government to attain sustainable economic development.

This is most timely considering that in the last Special Informal Asean Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting in Jakarta, the Philippines has been tapped to champion the Asean Task Force on Electronics and Semiconductors. These two products have over the years, served as the Philippines' leading exports. The Task Force will prepare the "Deliverables" for the AEM Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in September and the Sean Summit in Bali in October. This should be an exciting development for us because we are not just looking at liberalized intra-Asean trade with preferential tariffs under the AFTA-CEPT, but we can also expect strong doses to facilitation measures touching on Asean Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature, improvement in customs procedures and uniform product standards and common simplified administrative procedures among others.

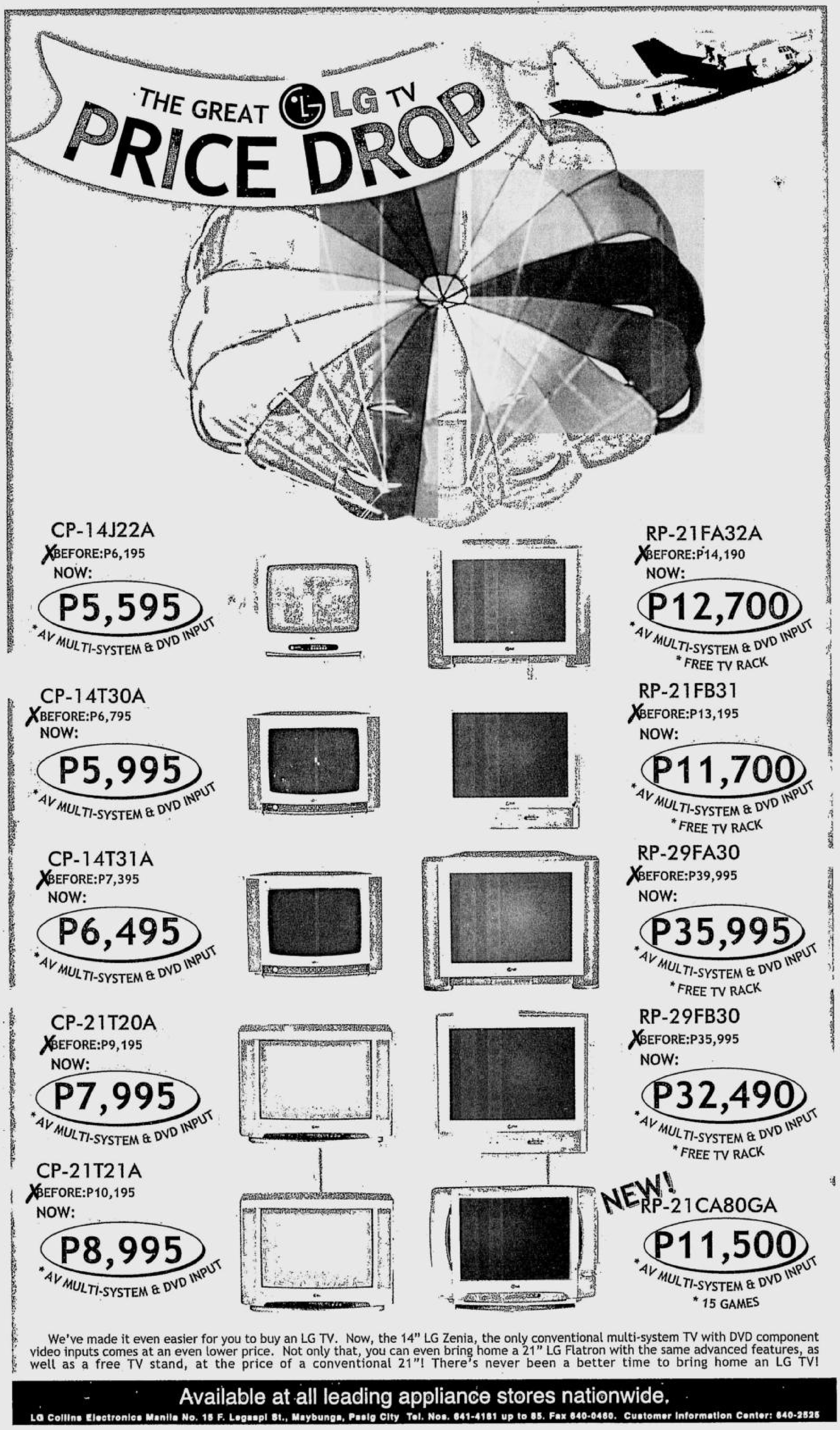
I enjoin you therefore to actively participate in the exercise, particularly in examining the value chain of the sector, putting forward your concerns in the movement of goods and in doing so, identify the trade facilitation measures you need.

This adds to the attractiveness of the AICO Scheme considering that on top of the preferential rates, we could expect later on a smoother and faster movement of goods. And regarding tariffs which I know is of great interest to you, we are now reviewing tariff liberalization policies and programs with the end view of revising these to encourage manufacturing activities. You may then expect some developments in these areas which I hope would spur endeavors even more in the manufacturing sector. I am positive that these current initiatives will further enhance our already outstanding performance so far, with exports of consumer electronics having been consistently on the rise since 1998.

We look forward to PAIA's success, and may this integration and consolidation serve to benefit the business and household sectors, not only of the Philippines, but of the Asean as well.

To PAIA, our sincere congratulations. Mabuhay

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry



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PAIA's MEMBER COMPANIES :

Company : Concepcion Industries, Inc.
Brand : Kelvinator/ Condura/ Toshiba

Company : Concepcion Carrier Air Conditioning Co.
Brand : Carrier/ Condura/ Kelvinator

Company : Daikin-Alen Air Conditioning, Inc.
Brand : Alenaire/ Daikin

Company : Electrolux Philippines, Inc.
Brand : Electrolux

Company : Excellence Appliance Technologies, Inc.
Brand : Whirlpool

Company : Fabriano Societa Per Azion, Inc.
Brand : Daewoo

Company : Fedders Koppel, Inc.
Brand : Fedders/ Koppel

Company : International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
Brand : Mitsubishi

Company : JVC (Phils) Inc.
Brand : JVC

Company : KEC-Astron Philippines Corp.
Brand : Samsung/Kolin/ Viewplus

Company : Kolin Philippines International, Inc.
Brand: Kolin/ Komitsu

Company : LG Collins Electronics Manila, Inc.
Brand : LG

Company : Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp.
Brand : Panasonic

Company : Omni Logistics Corporation
Brand : makers of TCL

Company : Philips Electronics & Lighting, Inc.
Brand : Philips

Company : Polytron Philippines Co., Inc.
Brand : Polytron

Company : Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp.
Brand : Samsung

Company : Sanyo Philippines, Inc.
Brand : Sanyo

Company : Sharp (Phils.) Corporation
Brand : Sharp

Company : Sony Philippines
Brand : Sony

Company : Super Manufacturing, Inc.
Brand : Kenwood

Company : TCL Sun, Inc.
Brand : TCL

Company : TT Corporation PTE, Ltd.
Brand : Akira

Company : Uni-Air Philippines, Inc.
Brand : Uni-Air

Company : Union Home Appliances, Inc.
Brand : Union

'A better, larger organization to take head-on the issues affecting the appliance industy'

From page B2-3

PAIA Board of Directors

Chairman
Raul Joseph A. Concepcion
(Concepcion-Carrier Air Conditioning Co.)

President
Fernanditas Tiongco-Malit
(Matsushita Electric Phil. Corp.)

VP-Internal
Andrew S. Ahorro
(Kolin Phils. International, Inc.)

VP-External
Emmanuel T. Valencia
(TCL Sun, Inc.)

Corporate Secretary
Janette B. Chua
(Sanyo Phil., Inc.)

Treasurer
Christopher D. Guido
(Sharp (Phils.) Corporation)

Auditor
Abbe L. Daza
(Omni Logistics Corporation)

lands is a logistics nightmare. This makes distributing appliances to nearby countries much cheaper than to far-flung areas of the archipelago.

With the advent of globalization, the environment in which the industry operates has also changed dramatically. Today, not all products are locally manufactured. Manufacturing and selling products is no longer the main component of the business. Alliances between appliance distributors have also been formed to be more competitive in the global market.

Though previous organizations have served the appliance industry well, the current situation needs a more relevant organization that will address the challenges of the times.

This brought about the consolidation of three previous organizations namely the CEPMA, a national trade organization of consumer electronic products or the brown lines, AHAM, which represents the home appliances or the so-called white lines and CHEF, the association for the cooking, heating and electric appliances, into one large organization, the Philippine Appliance Industry Association or PAIA.

"There are now other functions in the market that require better synergy between the associations, that is why we put together the organizations to address the other components of the business, not only the manufacturing side or the product side, but also other aspects of the business such as logistics, marketing, quality standards, representation with government, credit and collection functions, and developing the retail market, which we believe are of equal importance," relates Raul Joseph Concepcion, chair of PAIA, on the consolidation.

PAIA, he says, would be moving in concrete directions.

"The goal of appliance dealers is to sell more appliances to Filipinos, and PAIA would like to reinforce that thrust," he says, emphasizing the important role of appliances in the everyday life of people.

He cited air conditioners, which 10 years ago cost twice as much as today, and that's despite the increasing inflation rate and peso depreciation, among other factors. Its electricity consumption has also gone down, which says a lot about the efficiency of the product.

"Before, when you used 1 horsepower, it would cost you between P2,000 to P3,000 in electric consumption monthly. Now it would only cost you P1,000," he says.

Another direction which PAIA would be moving is toward giving products meant for the Filipinos.

"This takes into consideration the local condition that should be served by our products. Often, imported products conform to the condition of the country where they came from. Some products are not suited to the fluctuations in our electric current," Concepcion says.

With one large organization, the industry would now have one voice in the government. This would give them better leverage when they sit down with concerned agencies and help come out with better solutions to the issues that affect the industry such as monitoring and policing the industry, and consistency of government policies, among others.

PAIA would also provide services to the industry. Member-companies can access its database that contains information on sales, trends and market direction.

"This way, member-companies would have known how the market is behaving. They can now project and plan for their company. Without reliable information, companies cannot plan, they can only make wild guesses," Concepcion emphasizes.

Later on, Concepcion adds, as the industry becomes mature, certain basic functions can be consolidated as a group.

"Logistics, operations, promotions through trade fairs can be consolidated. There are really lots of things where we can work together to help the local companies improve themselves. We can even put up call centers to service the industry," he says.

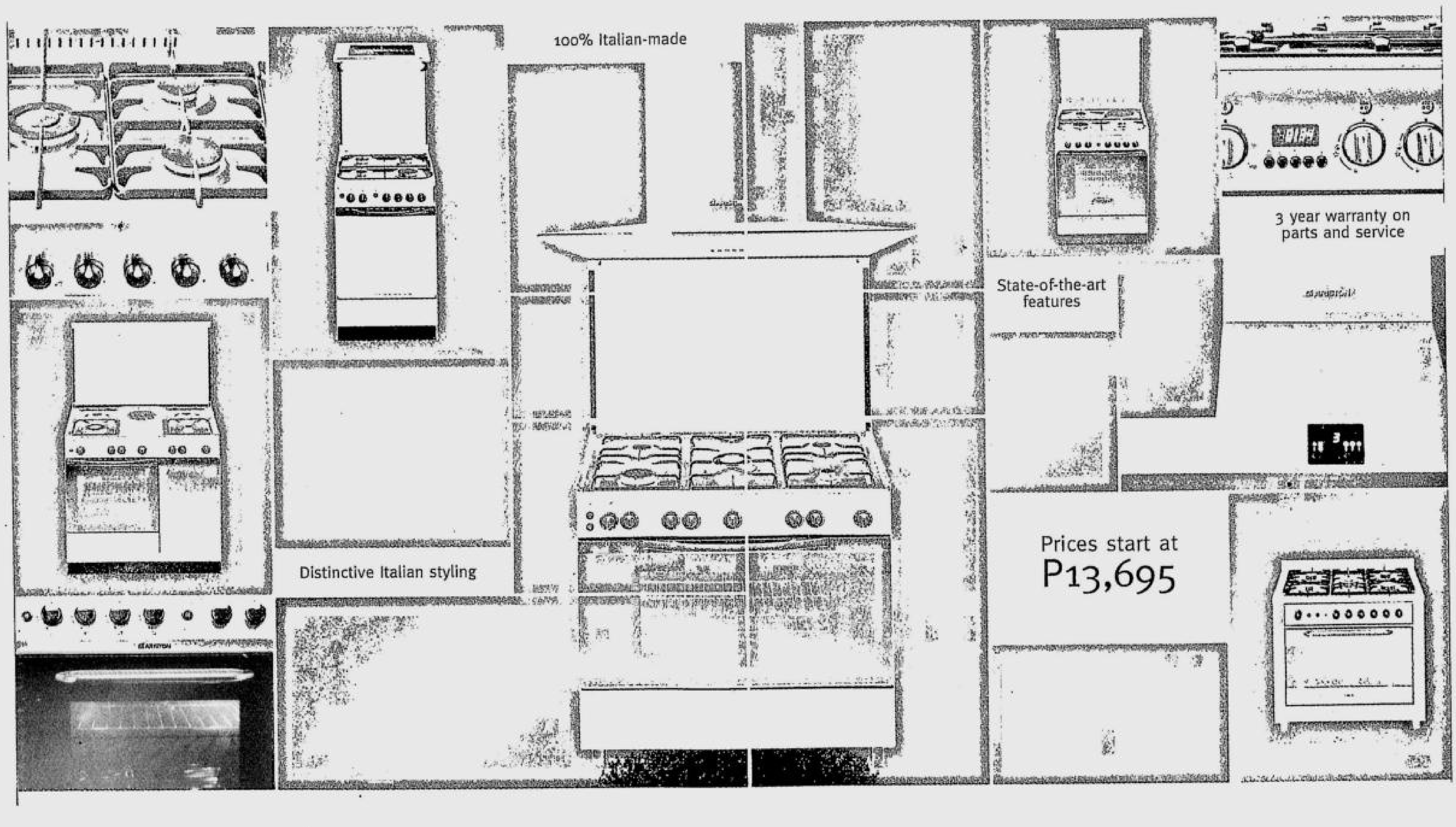
Member-companies would also benefit much with the formation of PAIA.

"It reinforces those companies which are legitimate. Those which invest a lot of time in the market, in research and development, in ISO 9000 standard," says Concepcion, adding that since PAIA would now become a symbol of quality, appliances which do not carry the PAIA logo would just mean that they do not meet the required quality standard.

And though PAIA has already in its fold the major appliance dealers, it would still take extra efforts to reach out to nonmembers. Reaching out to nonmembers means encouraging them to meet certain quality standards for their products. And if there are only quality appliances available in the market, the consumers would be the sure winner.

In the end, there's only one thing PAIA wants to accomplish, that is, to become a symbol of standard of quality trusted by both the appliance industry and the consumers, which would be its short-, medium-, and long-term goal.

> 'The goal of appliance dealers is to sell more appliances to Filipinos, and PAIA would like to reinforce that thrust,' Concepcion says, emphasizing the importance of appliances in the lives of people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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Ayala's Fernando Zobel to keynote retail confab

AYALA Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala will be the keynote speaker at the 12th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia Expo 2003 (12th NRCE) on Aug. 14 and 15 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The event is organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA, at 687-4985/4180/4181, e-mail pra@nwave.net).

Harvard-bred Zobel is the chair of Ayala Land Inc., acknowledged as the Philippines' largest real estate firm and its only full-line property developer.

The company is the recognized leader in the establishment of well-planned, fully integrated communities. The first of its flagship projects was the development of the Makati Central Business District, now the country's premier financial center.

Ayala Land Inc. has a diversified portfolio of projects in key growth areas, including residential and commercial subdivisions, office and residential buildings and shopping centers. With the theme "Surviving and Thriving in Times of Crisis", this year's event is supported by IBM Philippines, Microsoft Business Solutions, Oracle Philippines, PLDT Business Solutions, Araneta Center, Ayala Center, Robinsons Malls, SM Shoemart, Montanara, GMA-7, Philippine Star, Wave 89.1 and MasterCard International, Exel Logistics, Hewlett-Packard Philippines, Penshoppe and Bench.

High performance retailers are those who understand that surviving and thriving in these difficult times require a lot of creativity and ingenuity. The conference will provide practical yet substantial solutions to problems facing the retailers today. The topics will address such critical but sometimes underestimated tools that can create noticeable gains without requiring huge investments from retailers. Zobel de Ayala will be joined on Aug. 14 by Manny Silverman of Silverman & Associates (UK), who will speak on "The Customer is King", Joselito Anonuevo of Oracle Philippines, Francis J. Kong of Business Matters Values Foundation, who will speak on "Firing Up the Frontline: The True Essence of Customer Service", Tita D. Puangco of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, who will speak on "Attracting, Developing and Retaining Top Talent", Mia Protacio of M-Pro Ventures International, who will speak on "Creating Differentiation through Visual Merchandising", Marnie Tolosa of Microsoft, who will speak on "Microsoft Roadmap for the Retail Industry". Carl Cruz of Unilever Philippines, who will speak on "Creating Meaningful and Advantageous Supplier Partnership", and Shirley Kuan Saldias and Joyce Jimenez of Private Joyce Intimate Collection who will speak on Development of Private Brands.

Other confirmed speakers include professor Paul Freathy of University of Stirling (UK) who will speak on "The Challenge of International Competition: Developing Successful Retail Strategies in a Global Marketplace", Marie Lee of Taylor Nelson Sofres who will speak on "Understanding Consumers as Shoppers", Paul Harry Graham of Exel Logistics (Singapore) who will speak on "Using Outsourcing Initiatives to Increase your Profits", Ernesto R. Alberto and Nerissa S. Ramos of PLDT Business Solutions who will speak on "Telecom Solutions for the Retail Industry", Rommel M. Leuterio of Investment & Capital Corp. of the Philippines who will speak on "Raising Funds to Grow your Retail Business", Agnes Africa and Noel Mendoza of IBM Philippines who will speak on "Key Winning Strategies for Business Growth". AC-Nielsen will tackle "Shaping Shoppers' Habit Thru Media", Ramon Tulfo of the Philippine Daily Inquirer who will speak on "Shoplifters and Their Modus Operandi", Vicente T. Paterno of Philippine Seven Corp. who will speak on "Best Practices in Loss Prevention: A Retailer's Case Study", and Leonardo J. Matignas Jr. of SGV & Co. who will speak on "Fraud Prevention, Detection and Deterrence," among others.

Also supported by Adidas, Shangri-La Plaza, Shopwise, BPI Card Co., Criterion, Unimoda, Adman Resources, Ads on Bags, All Visual & Lights Systems, Inc., Coca-Cola

Bottlers Philippines, Straddle Fence Inc., GMP Philippines, Sportshouse, Casio, Nestle Philippines, Goodwill Bookstore, Pascual Laboratories Inc., Kraft Foods Philippines, Procter & Gamble Phils., Inc., SodexHo Pass and Unilever Philippines, the conference

will run side by side with the only focused and dedicated exhibition for retail suppliers billed as "Stores Asia Expo 2003" where a select group of suppliers to the retail industry are expected to showcase the latest "Tools for Global Retailing".

For more info, call the PRA executive secretariat.

Groundbreaking 'first' in RP

ADVERTISING expenditure on media and research has long been considered as one of every company's biggest investments in support of their brands. Yet, for most marketers, media expenditure is often planned and scheduled utilizing the same generic research available to all their competitors.

Together for the first time, the Philippine offices of both Synovate and Carat presented and demonstrated BrandVision and Scheduler, their respective proprietary tools that work seamlessly as the ultimate brand intelligence and media scheduling mechanism for 21st century brand management.

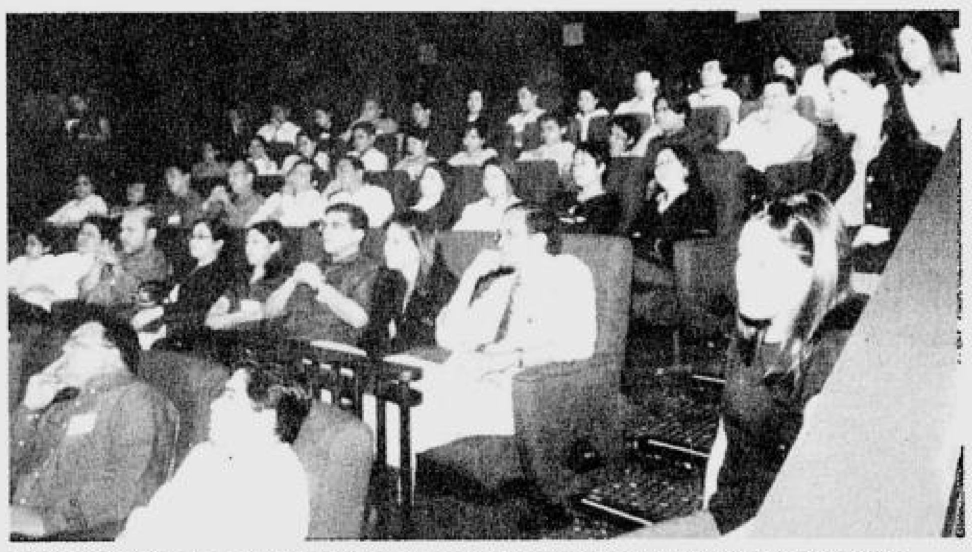
Held at My Cinema in Greenbelt 3 July 2, the event was attended by some of the advertising and marketing industry's key practitioners. Kurt Thompson, managing director of Synovate Korea, presented BrandVision, while PV Moorthy, regional strategic resources director at Carat Asia Pacific, demonstrated Carat Scheduler.

Synovate and Carat Philippines are part of Aegis Group Plc.

For more information on how you can take full advantage of both BrandVision and Scheduler, call Carole Sarthou at Synovate at 638-5288 and Jocelyn F. Domingo of Carat at 750-0989.

BRANDVISION, Synovate's solution, was presented by Kurt Thompson, managing director, Synovate Korea.

PV MOORTHY, regional strategic director for Carat Asia Pacific, makes a point on Carat's proprietary tool. Scheduler.



PARTICIPANTS to the joint Carat-Synovate groundbreaking presentation of their proprietary tools.

Interspec CD offers special sponsor packages this July

WITH more than 10,000 copies already released, the Interspec Construction Information Source CD has quickly become the latest "must-haves" of any architect, interior designer and other professionals in the construction industry. The CD, distributed by Interspec Corp. (687-7943), free to all construction industry practitioners, is a comprehensive interactive information resource, which can access anything and everything that has to do with construction.

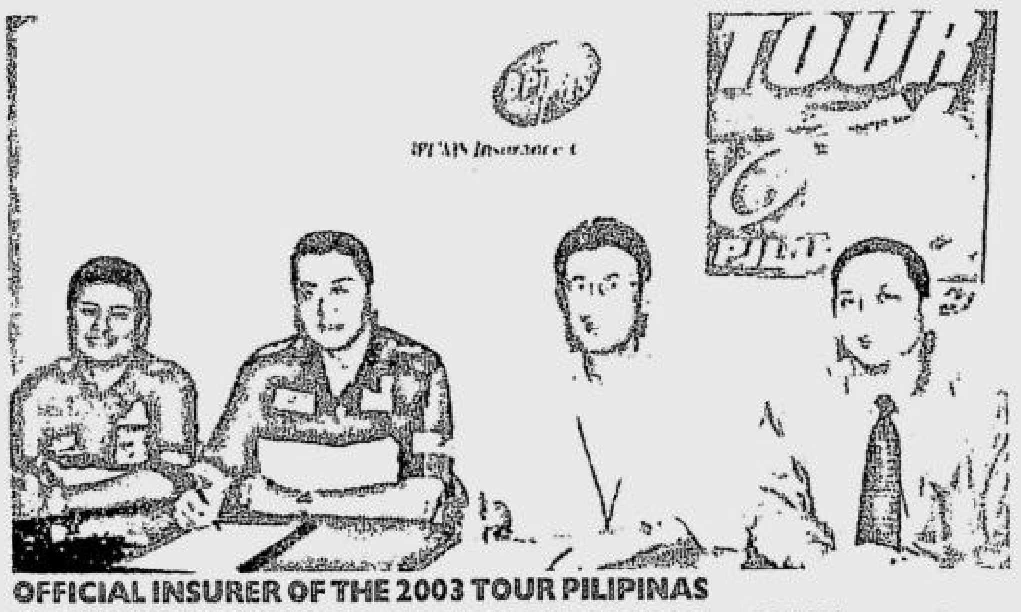
"With just a click, you can gain access to the directory of architects, interior designers, construction suppliers in Metro Manila and other areas in the country," said Lea Disini, corporate communications manager of Interspec. "In other words," Interspec president Irene Pineda added, "the CD makes building a house or constructing a building easier, in terms of looking for professionals and suppliers for any construction project."

This July, Interspec launches its Internet website and its special packages to sponsors with as much as 20-percent discounts. The package includes 1-page interactive virtual catalogue, free design and layout, 1-year Internet exposure and access, inclusion of the sponsorship slot in the two scheduled CD releases per year (5,000 CDs per release), and printable catalog that can be used as a brochure and profile.

Interspec also plans to release 100,000 CDs in the coming years as more and more construction industry professionals find the value of the CD and rely upon it for information.

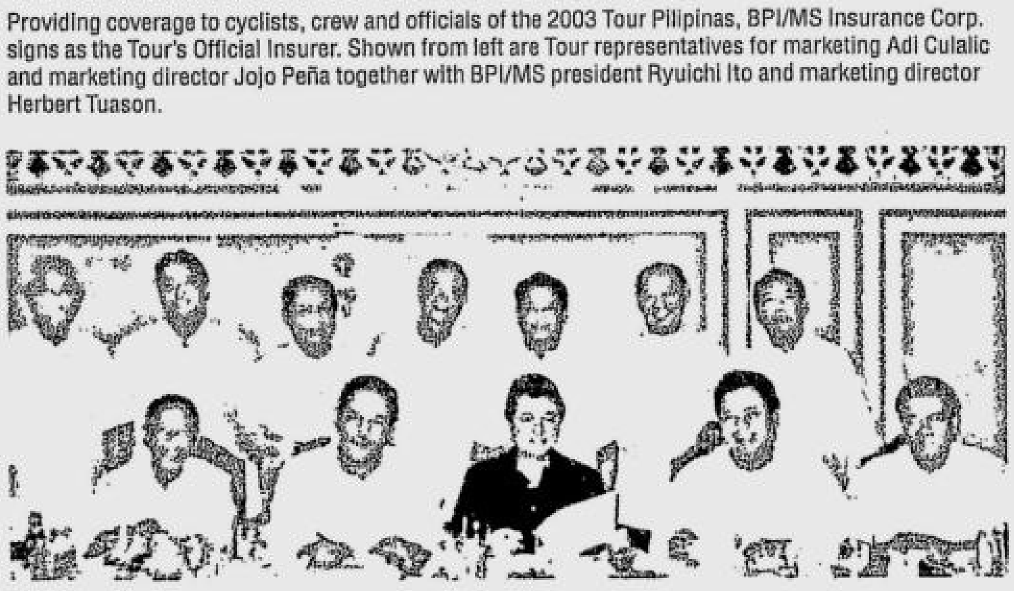
"The CD is a better and more accurate source of information," Pineda declared. "It is more comprehensive, more precise, has more visuals and does away with the bulkiness of traditional printed directories or brochures."

For more details, call 687-7943, or log on to www.myinterspec.com.



OFFICIAL INSURER OF THE 2003 TOUR PILIPINAS

Providing coverage to cyclists, crew and officials of the 2003 Tour Pilipinas, BPI/MS Insurance Corp. signs as the Tour's Official Insurer. Shown from left are Tour representatives for marketing Adi Culalic and marketing director Jojo Peña together with BPI/MS president Ryuichi Ito and marketing director Herbert Tuason.



PJS SIGNS UP WITH RJ

The Philippine JC Senate celebrates its 35th anniversary with a dinner-dance to be held on Aug. 16 at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, with the 'Main Man' himself Ramon Jacinto and his Riots providing the electrifying music. Flanking Ramon Jacinto (seated, 3rd from left) are JCI senators (seated, from left) Czar Yatco, Sergie Valencia, national president, Gino Baltao, project chair and Al Marana. Standing, from left, are Deng Dimalanta, Jun Sta. Maria, Mars Pineda, Pete Henson, Lito Trajano, Rene Balatbat and Ronnie Reyes.

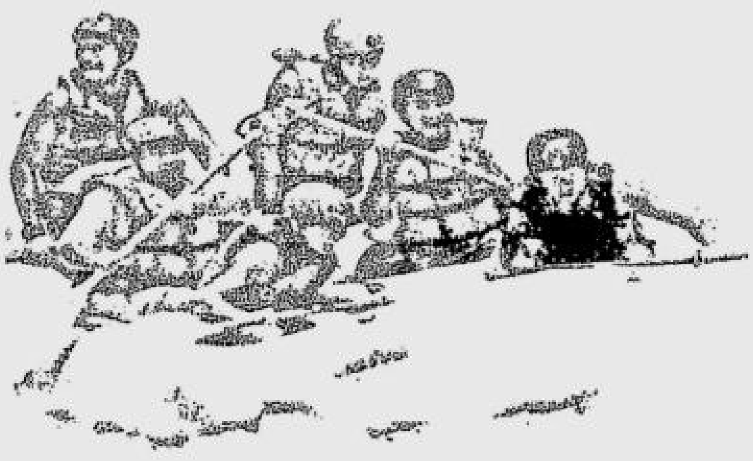
Clips

Real estate seminar

TWO IMPORTANT subjects, "Real Estate Taxation" and "Contract Documentation and Registration" will be conducted in a seminar by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on July 29, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the 2nd floor of Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati. Topics are what topics to pay for any real estate transaction, basis and how to oblige, when and where to pay, BIT forms, exemptions from capital gains tax, e-vat for real estate, donor's tax, and latest Revenue regulations. From 4 to 6 p.m. is "Contract Documentation and Registration" by lawyer Dennis Tablizo. Urban Institute will conduct seminars every Tuesday and Saturday on the subjects such as real estate mathematics for investors and foreclosure prevention and remedies. Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Wild Vines' Fashionista 2K3

FOLLOWING the success of last year's search for young designers, Wild Vines-the wild new taste in wines-has yet another exciting fashion event lined up for this year: Wild Vines' Fashionista 2K3. The search is made possible by Wild Vines, the fruity flavored wines with the light, sweet, crisp and exciting taste of various lush fruit flavors ranging from strawberry and peach, to raspberry and blackberry. Wild Vines' Fashionista 2K3 is a fashion design contest open to certified college students with a sense of fashion and a talent for fashion designing, who can create perfect Wild Vines look for women. Participants are to select a motif from a choice of four that represent the varieties of Wild Vines. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 31. For more details, interested parties can call Hershey, Jojo or Arlene at 671-1250, 671-1764 or 671-2391.



WHITE WATER RAFTING FROM SENTRO 1771

Experience a white water rafting adventure at the Cagayan Valley from Sentro 1771, Sidebar Café, and Pepsi X. From July 15 to Oct. 11, Sentro 1771 and Sidebar Café, together with Pepsi X, take four lucky guests to a White Water Rafting Adventure at Cagayan Valley. In cooperation with Adventures and Expeditions Philippines Inc., the pioneer in outdoor adventure, the winners can enjoy kayaking and white water rafting in Pinacanauan and the high waters of Chico River. Sentro 1771 and Sidebar Café's Adventure promo billed Great Excapes Series will treat guests to the beautiful scenery of canyons and waterfalls from Pasil to Tabul, Kalinga. All it takes to join is to order a minimum of P1,500 worth of food and beverage in Sentro 1771, Sidebar Café Ortigas and Malate. Visit Sentro 1771 at the Level 2, Greenbelt 3, Makati City or Sidebar Café in M. Adriatico Street, Malate and El Pueblo, Ortigas Center. For inquiries, call 757-3940 (Sentro 1771), 525-5337 (Sidebar Café Malate) and 631-7339 (Sidebar Café Ortigas).

HONDA PHILIPPINES' 2003 TOP SUPPLIER

Tsuchiya Kogyo Philippines Inc. was recently awarded as 2003 top supplier of Honda Philippines for outstanding performance in cost, quality and delivery categories during the 30th anniversary celebration of Honda Philippines Inc. held at Makati Shangrila, Makati City. Attended by top executives of the company, officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments, Peza, suppliers and dealers, lawyer Rizalino C. Vineza, president of Tsuchiya Kogyo Philippines Inc. is shown accepting the award from Satoshi Toshida, president and CEO of Asian Honda Motor Co. Ltd. and Yasuhiro Oyama, president of Honda Philippines Inc. In his acceptance speech, Vineza emphasized the importance of human resources development, benchmarking and industrial peace in today's competitive globalized business environment.

THE MOTHER of two says she does not like money problems.

Pops gets a new home for Pipay

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ONE quiet evening a few years ago, singer and actress Pops Fernandez was watching "The Oprah Winfrey Show," who was then tackling the subject of doing things for oneself.

The show asked the viewers to list down the things they have always wanted to do but never did.

Pops drew her own list which included riding a big roller coaster, going bunjee jumping, and putting up her own fashion line.

She has ridden a roller coaster in Las Vegas, has not gone bunjee jumping, and has yet to put up her line.

PIPAY
SOON TO OPEN

THE ACTRESS' first free standing store will open in September.

But last September, three years after doing the list, Pops finally has her own fashion line called Pipay.

For the past 10 months, her line has been in outlets of Anonymous, the eclectic shop of entrepreneurs Ricco and Tina Ocampo.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Come September this year, she will have her first free standing shop at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall. The shop comes with her deal as the celebrity endorser of the mall.

Pops describes Pipay as a trendy brand carrying T-shirts, jeans, jackets, bags, accessories. She says her stuff are the "Friends" and "Sex and the City" type of goods.

Pops says her target market are the teens "because they are the ones who are often in the mall" and they "exert buying pressure on the parents."

Pops herself is a mother of two teenage boys.

"And kids are hip and trendy," she says adding that, that is also how she sees her self.

Pops says she surfs the Net, looks around during her travels and subscribes to magazines to find out the latest trends.

But she adds that although the youth is her prime target, "it really depends on how confident you are" to wear the trendy clothes and accessories.

Pipay Garments Inc. is a partnership between Pops, who owns majority and Joel Tuquib, who handles operations.

Pops would not reveal how much she invested but says they have not made their ROI.

She says though that they are doing better than expected and that during the first weeks of operations, they ran out of stock.

"We did not expect to do that well. But that's a good problem. We learned our lesson and now we have more stocks," the 36-year-old says.

With the young market as target, Pops says she keeps her prices below P1,000. Eventually, she says, she will add cosmetics and scents.

Her partner handles the operations of Pipay but they meet once or twice weekly to talk about the business.

She says she does some of the designs, while others are presented by suppliers.

Pops says she hopes the business will eventually yield enough to support her financially, but for now it is a wish on her list that came true.

Pops says she dislikes money problems. Her first income was P150 when she was 14, when she guested in Todas, a comedy show in the '80s.

That money is still intact, she says, stuck to her album of firsts.

Soon it was P500 per show as special host of Penthouse Live, then to P1,000 as a regular host.

Pops says she does not believe in golf shares but does have a few investments. She claims she is "kuripot" but is working hard to ensure that she and her boys will have a comfortable life.

She hopes that Pipay can help provide them this.

Exporting in a nutshell

From page B2-2

quest of the buyer, to honor a seller's draft or demand for payment up to a stated sum of money within a prescribed time limit and upon compliance with the condition specified therein.

Submission of documents for collection when using the letter of credit

Within 10 days from the shipment date, the exporter must present the following documents to the AAB:

- Letter of Credit or covering draft
- Bill of Lading or Airway Bill.
- Commercial Invoice
- Other documents like insurance certificate, certificate of origin, commodity clearance, etc.

The bank will now credit the exporter's account either in pesos or foreign currency upon payment by the buyer through the bank.

(Check out the following UP ISSI training programs for the quarter: Strategic Marketing Course, Total Quality Management, Start Your Own Business, and Managing Your Finance. Call. 928-7076 to 79)

Was there bias in Comelec bid?

From page B2-2

The criteria eliminates all possible world class technology providers except one. Guess who? Is this the way to conduct a fair and unbiased bid for the benefit of the country?

There are also indications that the bid specs for Phase II were likewise designed to eliminate potential competitors with more favorable bids for the government and the country.

These two criteria are: 1. The counting machines should have been used in at least one political exercise with at least 20 million votes 2. must have an accuracy rating of 99.9995 percent or better.

Who would be the leaders in Optical Mark Reading technology? Korean companies or Japanese companies? How come there were interested Japanese companies but no bidders in the end?

The requirement for use in at least one political exercise with at least 20 million voters was designed to block other bidders except one or two. Why 20 million voters in one political exercise? Would experience in several political exercises with fewer voters not have the same value?

It is very interesting that South Korea had 20 million voters in the last election! That qualifies Mega Pacific's partner. But would you believe that a vendor who had vote counting and canvassing experience in Spain, Columbia, Argentina, Poland, Canada, Venezuela, Malaysia, Taiwan, Australia, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Austria or Switzerland would not qualify. Because they all have less than 20 million voters. Although I am quite sure that many of these countries have better vote counting and canvassing systems than South Korea.

The one political exercise 20 million vote requirement is definitely a smoking gun that raises doubts about the fairness of the Comelec bid.

If one verifies rumors that most of the Comelec Commissioners went to Korea in the middle of winter courtesy of a lucky golfer who won a very large bet, can we give the Comelec the benefit of the doubt?

The 99.9995 percent accuracy requirement is probably impossible to achieve as well as to test with consistency. To achieve this accuracy, you must have only one error out of 200,000 marks! If a ballot has 20 marks you must read 10,000 ballots. How many times do you test?

Impossible requirements are designed for favored suppliers. Those without strong connections are discouraged and do not bid. Those with strong connections bid anyway.

DOST has apparently stated that no one passed the accuracy test. Will there still be a winner? Or should there be a rebid?

(The author is president of Systems Science Consult Inc., Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

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PROMOTION DATES
July 15 – August 15, 2003

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For any questions about this promotion, just ask the sales associate.

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Every 256MB Memory — 2 raffle tickets
Every 512MB Memory — 4 raffle tickets
Every 1024MB Memory — 8 raffle tickets

Winners will be announced on www.kingston.com/asia, www.lamco.com.ph and [illegible] Philippine [illegible] media on September 1, 2003. Winners will be notified by telephone and thru registered mail. Winners will need to present the top half of the ticket along with the original store invoice to claim prizes. Promotion is sponsored by Kingston Technology Company.

1st Prize Compaq Presario 2127 Laptop
2nd Prize Canon Powershot A300 Digital Camera
3rd Prize Compaq [illegible] 38.1cm (15") LCD Monitor
4th Prize HP Officejet [illegible] Multifunction Printer
5th Prize Creative Inspire [illegible] Surround Speaker System
6th Prize [illegible] Digital Camera

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2780. Series of 2003

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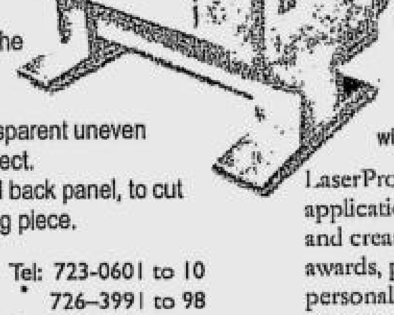

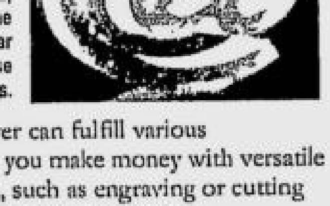

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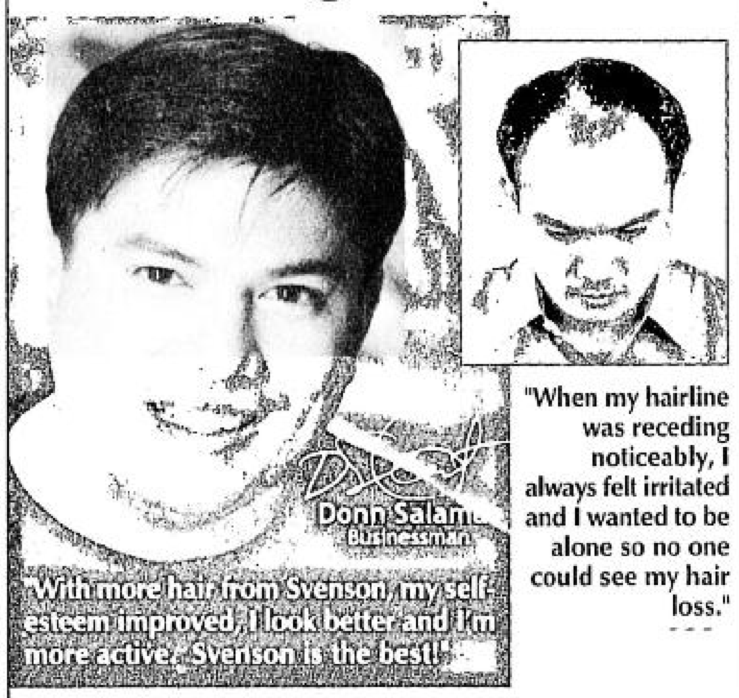
Is Your Balding Head Affecting Your Life?


Donn Salama
Businessman
"With more hair from Svenson, my self-esteem improved, I look better and I'm more active. Svenson is the best!"

"When my hairline was receding noticeably, I always felt irritated and I wanted to be alone so no one could see my hair loss."

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MON.- FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

BUSINESS Monday

How to deal with lack of privacy in a the office?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q. WE HAVE just renovated our office into cubicles as opposed to enclosed areas. I feel so strange that everyone around me knows exactly what is going on in my office. To the point that my neighboring colleagues seem to think they can vocalize their opinions by shouting next door. As a result I feel like I have a major lack of privacy. Are there business etiquette guidelines one can observe in this type of situation?

A. More and more offices are converting into cubicles in order to maximize space and to create a more team oriented environment. Unfortunately, a lot of people feel the same way you do in terms of the lack of privacy particularly when you are used to being in your own office. Some guidelines to follow, which you may circulate around your office:

Be aware of your voice volume.

Cube dwellers hear each other's conversations over the cubicles, so try to keep the voice level down. If you are having a meeting, it would be a better idea to reserve a meeting room wherein you can all speak freely, not be overheard and not bother anyone.

Sensitive issues or confidential matters should be avoided.

Again, choose a separate venue or a meeting room to discuss sensitive issues or confidential matters.

Always be aware that you live in a fishbowl.

Like it or not, your neighbors see and hear your every move and it is human nature to judge you. Limit personal calls, and make sure your desk is always neat and make sure you look like you are working all the time.

Keep your cell phone on silent mode.

There is no need to announce that you are receiving a call or a text for the entire floor to hear.

Avoid the speaker phone.

Unless you want everyone to listen in on your conversation or bother your officemates with your phone conversations.

Never pop in uninvited.

Just because it is a cubicle set-up it doesn't mean that you can just pop in and out of people's workplaces. Invite people and inform people if you are going to visit them or would like them to come over to your cube.

Keep your opinions to yourself.

If the person in the next cube is in a meeting, do not feel that you can give your two cents worth by shouting your opinion so that your voice carries over to the next cubicle. If you happen to overhear something and you have a valid point or suggestion to raise, call the person concerned after his/her meeting and give your suggestions.

Q. I am being honored at a company party next week for loyalty and exemplary service rendered to the company. I am flattered, excited and nervous. Do you have any tips for me? How long should my speech be? What do I do if my boss offers a toast in my honor?

A. Congratulations! First of all, enjoy yourself. This is a momentous occasion and you should treasure every minute of it. There will be a lot of thank you's and a lot of tributes to your career achievements and this is your time in the limelight so enjoy yourself that evening.

Secondly, when it is your turn to speak, speak from your heart and say your thank you's, just remember to keep your speech shorter than five minutes. Three minutes is the ideal time as you will find, most people stop listening after two to three minutes.

Thirdly, when your boss offers a toast in your honor, you raise your glass, acknowledge the toast, BUT, you do not drink. The reason behind this is that one never drinks to himself. You must remember also that if a toast is offered in your honor, you will then need to make a response.

Again, keep this to "Thank you sir for your kind words, at this time I would like to take the opportunity to offer a toast in your honor." During this time, you raise your glass, toast to your boss and then you can drink. Your boss on the other hand will raise his glass but not drink to himself.

E-mail queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com.

Pops talks about handling her finances

See story on Page B2-7

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0% interest for the RAV4SV*
KEEP ON TALKING.
Low down payment of ₱140,000 for the RAV4SV**
NOW, LET'S TALK.
Get a chance to erase your loan with TFS***

Now, you can stop chatting about how good the RAV4SV looks and drive one today.
Go for these great deals that everybody can't stop talking about.

RAV4 SV Suggested Retail Price: ₱990,000.00

DP Amount	12	18	24	36	48	60
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
198,000	68,052	46,873	37,246	26,702	21,787	18,480
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
396,000	50,411	34,538	27,455	19,683	16,059	13,617
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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Editor Louie C. Camino

News anchor wins ₱2.6M case vs ABC 5

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE NATIONAL Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) said ABC Channel 5 owes its news anchor, Thelma Dumpit, P2.6 million because it refused to renew her contract and illegally dismissed her three years ago.

The NLRC last June 23 ruled that the network had illegally fired Dumpit on Oct. 21, 1999. She had worked with the company since Sept. 30, 1995 and was a news anchor at the time of her dismissal.

The NLRC ordered ABC 5 to reinstate Dumpit to her former position and to pay her back wages in full, which include allowances and other benefits and total P2.6 million.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the NLRC writ of execution issued last June 23 by labor arbiter Ariel Apostol.

The NLRC gave the network 30 days to comply with its decision on the granting of P2.6 million to Dumpit.

But according to lawyer Christine Ona, ABC 5 legal division vice president, the Court of Appeals last July 15 granted the network's request for a 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO).

The appellate court's sixth division signed the TRO, extending for 60 days the granting of P2.6 million to Dumpit.

But Dumpit said the TRO did not carry the signatures of three justices.

"It is therefore invalid, questionable, to say the least," she said. "My counsel has filed a comment on the TRO."

The NLRC, citing lack of merit, had initially dismissed Dumpit's case when it was first filed on March 29, 2000.

On May 5, 2000, Dumpit filed an appeal to the NLRC requesting for the reversal of the decision, which the court granted on Aug. 30 of the same year.

On Oct. 20, 2000, ABC 5 filed a motion for reconsideration, which the NLRC denied two months later, on Dec. 29.

Dumpit filed a motion for execution on April 3, 2003 after the NLRC issued its final judgment last Feb. 26, 2002.

"This is probably the biggest story I will ever get to write about in my 20-year broadcast media career," Dumpit said of her labor case against ABC 5.

"It took me three years to win this battle that seemed hopeless in the beginning," she added. "May this victory also serve as an inspiration to all those whose talents have been abused and are continually being abused, and a warning to the abusers."

Dumpit, the eldest daughter of La Union Rep. Tomas Dumpit, graduated from Maryknoll College with a degree in Liberal Arts, major in Communication Arts. She took higher studies as a scholar at the National Defense College of the Philippines and graduated with a master's degree in national security administration.

She first worked as a desk writer for then MBS Channel 4 and eventually became the network's news anchor and correspondent for the "Primetime Newscast" until 1986 when the Marcos government was overthrown at Edsa.

Dumpit moved to ABC 5 as news anchor for "Balitang Balita" and stayed until 2000.

Dumpit currently hosts a public affairs program "Linawin Natin," on IBC 13, with newspaper columnist Jarius Bondoc. She also hosts "Kartada 882" a weekly radio program on dwZZ.

"THIS is my biggest story," says Thelma Dumpit.

"THIS is what I am," says De Rossi.

Former shoplifter Alessandra wants to be a mermaid

By Nini Valera

SHE shop-lifted at the age of 4, but Alessandra de Rossi is not about to follow the route of Hollywood's Winona Rider, who was convicted of shoplifting last year.

Alessandra, now 19, says she is trying hard to be a role model for today's youth.

"*Wala lang* (It was nothing)," she says of the shoplifting incident, which happened in Italy, where she was born and lived until she was 6. "My mom did not want to buy me an egg-shaped chocolate, so I took it and kept it in my pocket."

But Alessandra is not about to change anything about herself to become someone the young could emulate.

"This is what I am," she says. "What they see is what they get."

What we see is a playful teener clad in a red T-shirt and hip-hugging blue jeans.

"Red is my favorite color. Everything is red." She puts up her feet to show red vinyl sneakers. "Even my car is red. Red, I think, shows character."

Character is something Alessandra has plenty off. She took her mother's side in last year's verbal tussle with older sister Assunta and Assunta's then fiancé, Rep. Jules Ledesma, which had not ended even after the couple's marriage this year. The sisters have remained estranged and have been seen snubbing each other in film awards rites and movie premieres.

Her performance on screen is equally intense as her real-life passion for defending her mother. An Urian trophy for best supporting actress for her role in Joel Lamangan's "Hubog" is proof of her onscreen intensity.

"That was my most difficult role so far," says this veteran of five or six films.

"Hubog" had Alessandra playing a retarded sexual victim and sister of Assunta, who also won the Gawad Urian for Best Actress for her performance in the same film.

In Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig" (*See related story, Page C8)*, Alessandra showed her sensitivity, winning for herself various best actress nominations for her role as a young school teacher in a far-flung barrio.

So far, Alessandra has shown her sterling presence in small pictures like "Munting Tinig," making her a staple in local independent films. She is also in another small flick, tentatively called "The Homecoming," which Portes is also directing.

Unlike her sister, Alessandra, who claims she's a virgin, vows not to bare her body on screen.

"I have nothing to show in the first place," she says, pushing out her chest for proof, or lack of it. "But I like to act, and I'd like to be a model someday.'

She also likes to be a mermaid. "I saw the movie 'Splash,' and I

FORMER / C6

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PORTES

The Gil Portes tales

/C8

BONDOC JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Onemig out of the bedroom and into the kitchen

/C2

DID YOU KNOW ...

When entertainment columnist **Cristy Fermin** celebrated her birthday at the Punchline comedy club in Quezon City last Wednesday night, among the first guests to join her was close friend and ex-presidential son **Jude Estrada.** Then came Jude's half-brother, San Juan Mayor JV Estrada, who joined Jude and Cristy's table, according to our eyewitness. And then came another brother, former San Juan mayor **Jinggoy Estrada.** But Jinggoy, recently released from from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he had been detained with their father, deposed President **Joseph Estrada,** sat at another table, the eyewitness said. Later in the otherwise rowdy, laugh-filled evening, some of the women with the Estradas were seen wiping tears away, the eyewitness added.

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Onemig out of the bedroom and into the kitchen

BOY'S TOYS fill his bedroom, some of them worth as much as P10,000 to P15,000 each.

By Marinel R. Cruz

UNLIKE other stars his age, Onemig Bondoc claims he is not crazy about clothes and shoes.

In fact, he doesn't even keep them in his bedroom.

"They are all stashed in my kitchen," says Onemig as he shows INQUIRER Entertainment around his condo unit in San Juan.

Instead, in his bedroom are his his collections of baseball caps, toy cars, robots and superhero action figures. They are what he calls his prized possessions, with the toy cars ranging from as much as $200 (P10,000) to $300 (P15,000) each.

"Problems seem to multiply as you get older," says the star of the new ABS-CBN youth series "Buttercup." "I forget my worries whenever I see my toys. They bring back good memories of my childhood."

Onemig says his mom Miladel and assistant Fe helped him convert his kitchen into a walk-in closet. The cabinets that should have held pots and pans now hold sweatshirts and jackets. The cabinet under what was supposed to be the kitchen sink has his jeans and pants, including his favorite acid-washed Dickies denims.

"We moved the kitchen to a small space at the back of the bathroom," explains the ex-boyfriend of China Cojuangco of the famous clan.

His shirts, shorts and towels are now in what was supposed to contain plates and cooking utensils. Five tall plastic racks hold all his footwear, including the motocross boots that he says he hardly wears now that he's busy taping twice a week for "Buttercup" and shooting thrice a week for the movie "Pinay Pie," which stars Ai-Ai de las Alas.

"The only clothes I keep in my room are my sleepwear," says Onemig, who during the INQUIRER visit is wearing his favorite shorts and an anklet which he says was given to him by a special someone.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Sneakers. "I wear these everyday because they are very comfortable. The pair looks good with any color of clothes. This is my favorite pair among all my white sneakers."

Leather shoes. "This Prada pair is very light and comfortable. I bought it in Hong Kong last year."

Motocross boots. "I've not worn them in a long time. I became interested in motocross in 2000. But I'm too busy to ride the bike now because of work."

Sandals. "I'm so into these Kenneth Cole sandals that I bought two pairs, in brown and black. I love the style. I wear these with pants a lot."

Rubber shoes. "I remember giving my *lolo* (Jay Rivera) my first pair of Nike Air Jordan 7 when he was still alive. I was really, really close to him. We were jogging in Hawaii when he said he wanted to have them. I don't know where he hid that pair so I bought a new one. It reminds me of him."

T-shirt. "I've had this Dickies shirt since 1995. *Kupas na kupas na!* I love the print—Formula 1 Racing. I don't wear it often anymore *kasi baka masira na lalo.*"

Long sleeves. "This one's really old. I still keep it because a really close friend gave this to me. I won't tell you who."

Jacket. "I've had this for as long as I can remember. My late *lolo* gave this to me. I don't wear it anymore. I hardly wear jackets. I keep this for sentimental reasons."

Jeans. "I love the color of this pair from Dickies. It's brown and faded. Unique, *'di ba?* It looks like it's been worn many times although it's new."

Bed clothes. "I wear boxer shorts and really old shirts to bed. Since the fabric has been washed many times, comfy and *presko nang isuot.*"

Anklet. "I never took off this anklet since I put it on in 1993. This was given to me by a special someone."

"Buttercup" costumes. "Because my character in 'Buttercup' is gay, I have to wear gay clothes, like this red body-fit shirt. *Baklang-bakla talaga!* It feels uncomfortable wearing them. Feeling *ko bakla na ako eh!*"

Onemig's Wilson plays opposite Ciara Sotto's Sheryl in "Buttercup."

Perfume. "I stick to Eternity for Men *kahit hindi na uso.* The scent sets me apart from others. I stand out in parties because everyone else smells the same."

Towel. "I've had this even before I entered show biz. I always bring this to shootings. Look at how worn-out it is."

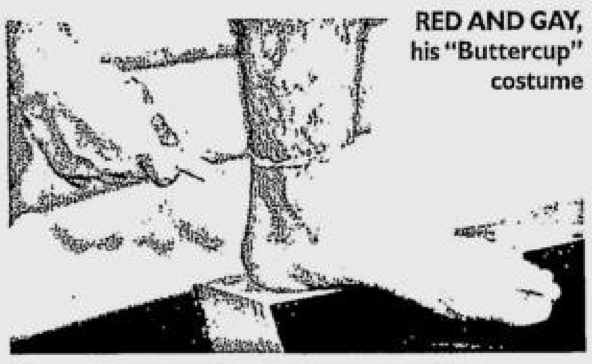
Bag. "This is from West McLaren. I've had this since my 'Labs Ko si Babes' days. I bring this to tapings and shootings. It holds my personal stuff, like toothpaste, towel, everything."

Headwear. "This was given to me as a gift by the staff members of the Department of Education in South Cotabato. You know, I learned a lot from the work I did for the DepEd as its spokesperson in 2002."

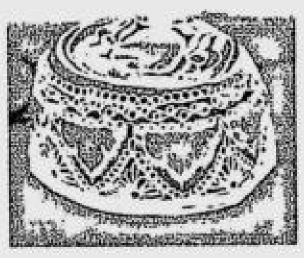
Onemig is also the official spokesperson of the National Youth Commission and of the Red Cross Youth Movement for drug abuse prevention.

Scuba diving gear. "Scuba diving is my new obsession. I was supposed to go to Anilao, Batangas this weekend. *Sayang!* I've prepared so much for it. I had to call it off because I was told that we had to shoot for 'Pinay Pie.'"

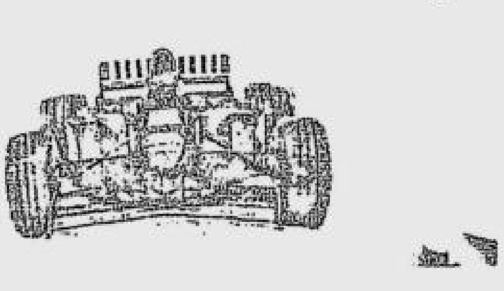
RED AND GAY, his "Buttercup" costume



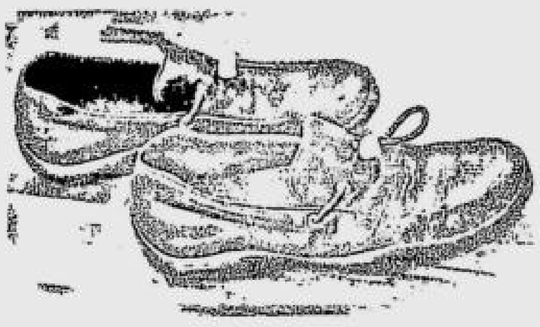
FEET TO BE TIED. His favorite footwear is a pair of Prada (right) and an anklet he has not taken off since 1993.



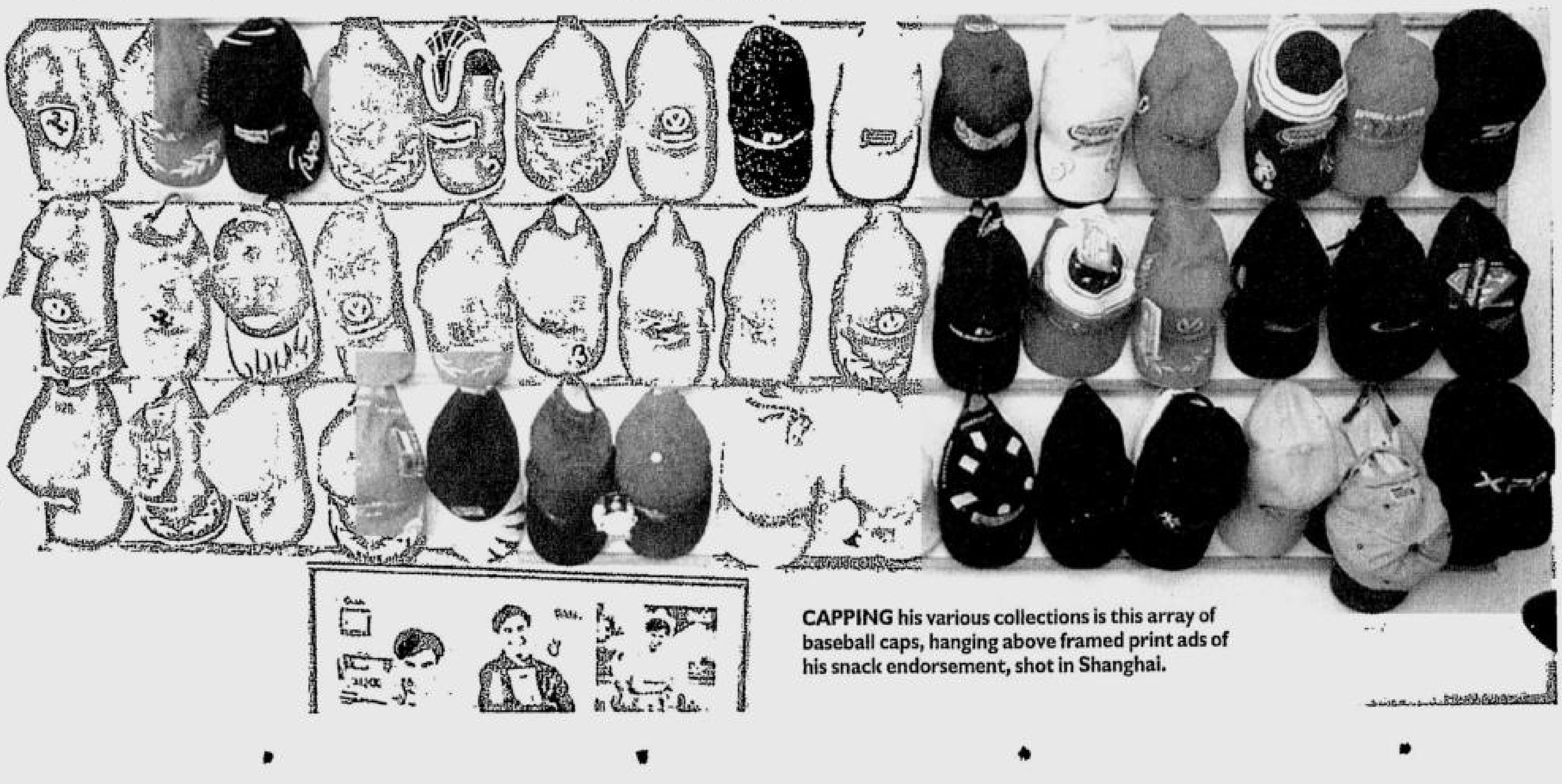
HEADY STUFF. A gift from South Cotabato



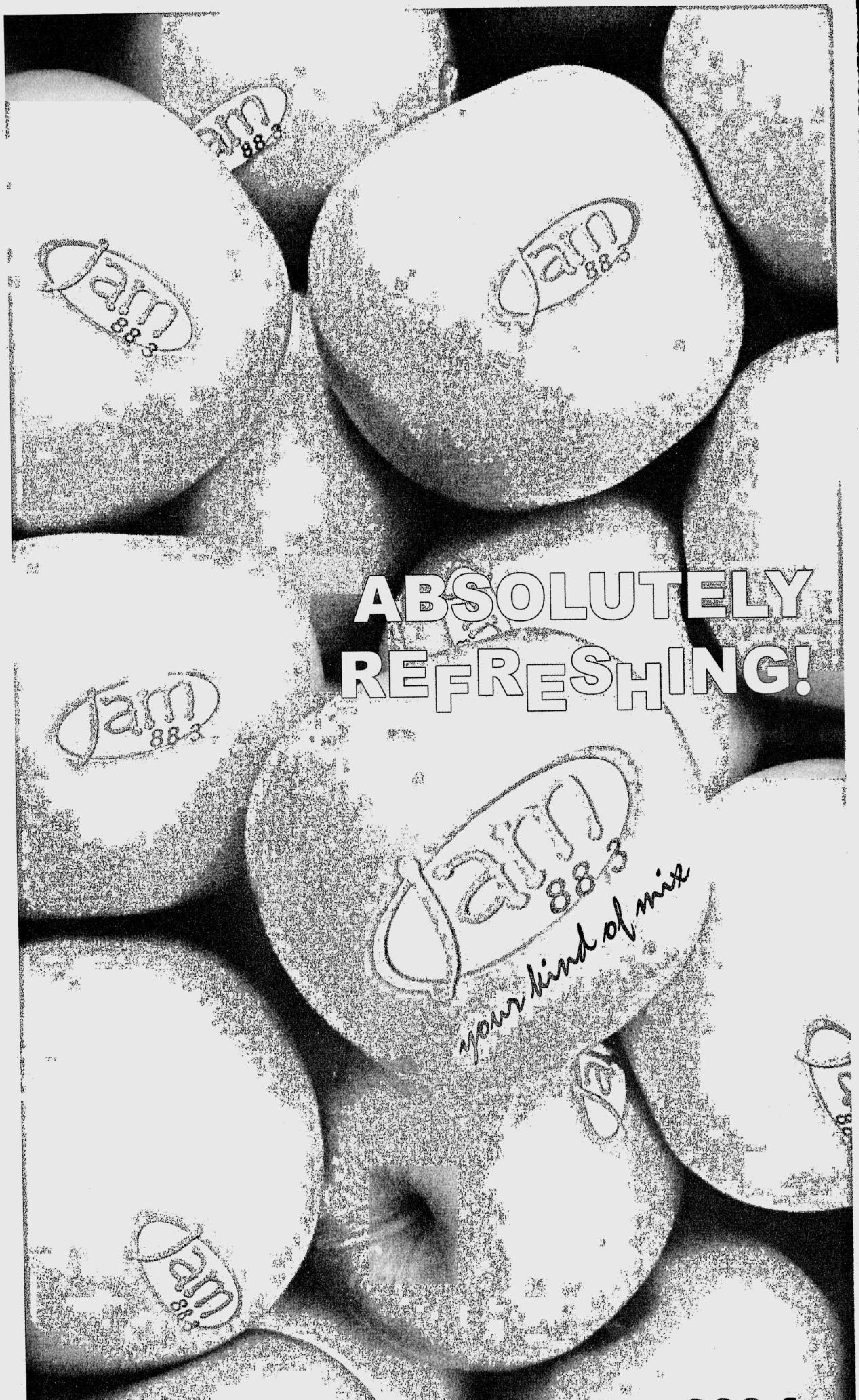
FADED FAVORITE, his F1 shirt



PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



CAPPING his various collections is this array of baseball caps, hanging above framed print ads of his snack endorsement, shot in Shanghai.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3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema
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2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS ES) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Cine Nepo Mall
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2 TERMINATOR-3
3 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER 2
4 TOMB RAIDER 2

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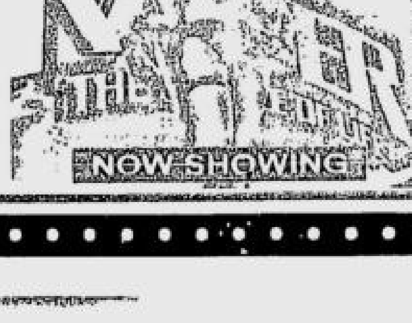

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2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
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4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 TERMINATOR 3
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 WILD BUTTERFLY
9 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 IMPOSTOR
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 3
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 MASAMANG UGAT
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3
9 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10 WILD BUTTERFLY
11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 IMPOSTOR
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 WILD BUTTERFLY
11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 MASAMANG UGAT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 THE HUNTED
9 IMPOSTOR
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED
12 WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 WILD BUTTERFLY
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 MASAMANG UGAT
10 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 THE HUNTED
4 JACKASS
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 MASAMANG UGAT
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 THE HUNTED
2 RESERVED
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 28 DAYS LATER
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 RESERVED
8 THE HOURS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 JACKASS
6 TERMINATOR 3

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 MUNTING TINIG
5 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN
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1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 TERMINATOR 3
2 THE HUNTED
3 28 DAYS LATER
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA
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633-8976
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE 12:15 FS/12:45 MF/3:10/ 9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/12:20 END
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE 11:05 MF/1:20/3:45/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE - 10:45,1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00
4 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 11:50,2:15,4:40,7:05,9:30
5 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 10:25,12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30
6 DOWN WITH LOVE - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2 - 11:30,1:35,3:40,5:45,7:50,9:55
8 BANGKOK HAUNTED - 10:45,1:30,4:15,7:00,9:50
9 IMPOSTOR - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
10 TERMINATOR 3 - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema P75 level cinemas
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Ermita
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1 TOMB RAIDER - 10:15,12:35,3:00,5:25,7:50,10:10
2 TERMINATOR 3 - 10:15,12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
3 DOWN WITH LOVE - 10:15,12:30,2:45,5:00,7:15
4 TOMB RAIDER - 11:05,1:30,3:55,6:20,8:45
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED - 11:00,1:35,4:10,6:45,9:40
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE10:15,12:30,2:45,5:00,7:15,9:40
7 TOMB RAIDER - 11:40,2:05,4:30,6:55,9:20

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682-8199
682-8280
1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 TOMB RAIDER 2
8 SABIK

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1 TOMB RAIDER
2 IMPOSTOR
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 DOWN WITH LOVE
5 TOMB RAIDER 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 WILD BUTTERFLY
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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3 TERMINATOR 3
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6 TOMB RAIDER

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3 WILD BUTTERFLY
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5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 SABIK

Sta. Rosa Laguna
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2 JACKASS
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 TOMB RAIDER

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2 PIGLET BIG MOVIE
3 IMPOSTOR
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DANCER IN THE DARK
6 TUMITIBOK...KUMIKIROT

Iloilo
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1 TOMB RAIDER
2 28 DAYS LATER
3 BABAE SA VIP ROOMS
4 TOMB RAIDER
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 THE HOURS

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'That's' graduate reinvents herself

BY THE time time "That's Entertainment" graduate Tootsie Guevara was 12, she had already released six albums and co-hosted three TV shows. She was also nominated for best child recording artist at the Awit awards in 1990.

In 1996, her first album from Star Records, "Pasulyap-sulyap," turned gold. In 1998, her hit, "Kaba," turned double platinum and was the theme song of a Vina Morales-Robin Padilla movie.

Tootsie is now recording her latest album for Viva Records. It features tracks by acclaimed composers Jay Durias, Ben Escasa, and Archie Castillo.

Tootsie has also been flexing her acting muscles. She was, after all, part of the Philippine Theatre stalwart PETA as a child. She played the daughter of Carmi Martin's character in "Kahit Kailan." She is also the antagonist in Book 2 of "Habang Kapiling Ka." She was in the cast of "Radio Romance," "Rubberman," and "Muntik Nang Maabot Ang Langit."

She idolizes actresses Vilma Santos, Lorna Tolentino, and Nora Aunor. And she would like to emulate the careers of singer-actresses Regine Velasquez and Sharon Cuneta.

Tootsie is going to treat her fans to her music on July 30 at Ratsky's Tomas Morato in a show fcalled "Total Gravity," with guest Luke Mejares, the A-petite Band, and R&B singer Jay-R.

"You have to reinvent yourself," she says. Just how she'll do this, we'll find out on July 30. Tootsie is managed by ALV productions.

GUEVARA

SHOW TIME

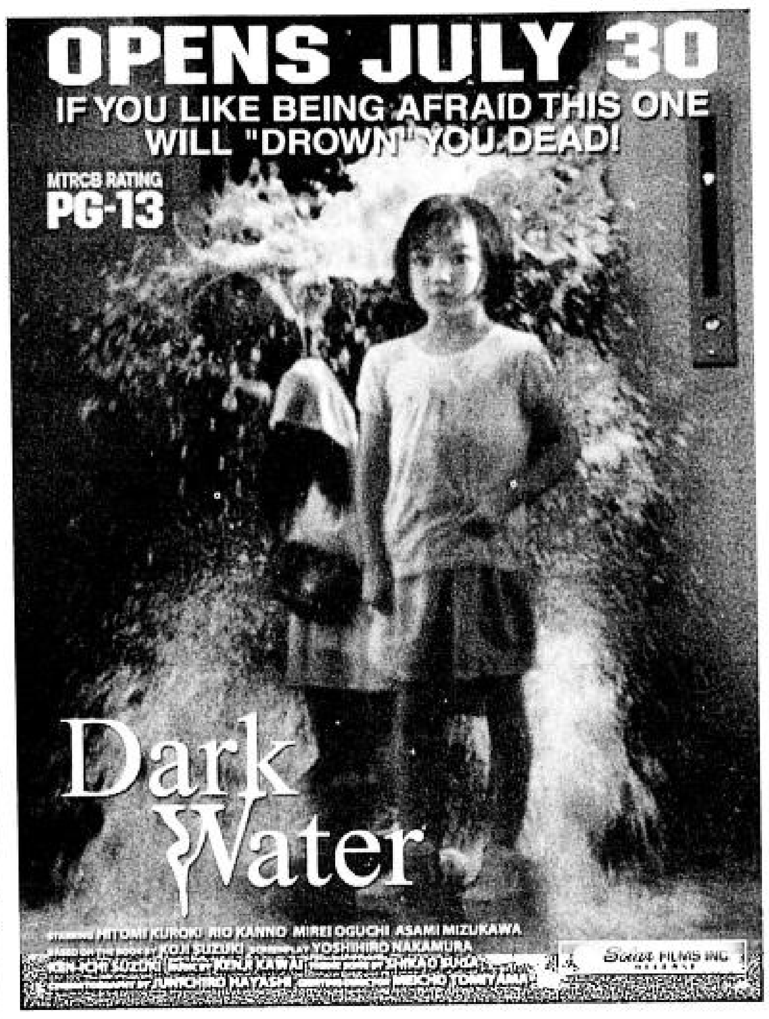
Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BANGKOK HANUTED
Ali 7	DEATH WATCH

ARANETA COLISEUM	
JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 7	UAAP GAMES
AUG 9	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
B	TOMB RAIDER 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	JACKASS
CINEMA-3	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	WILD BUTTERFLY
CINEMA-7	BAD INSTINCT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-14	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HAUNTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	HUNTED
CINEMA 3	JACKASS
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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BASED ON THE BOOK BY KOJI SUZUKI SCREENPLAY YOSHIHIRO NAKAMURA
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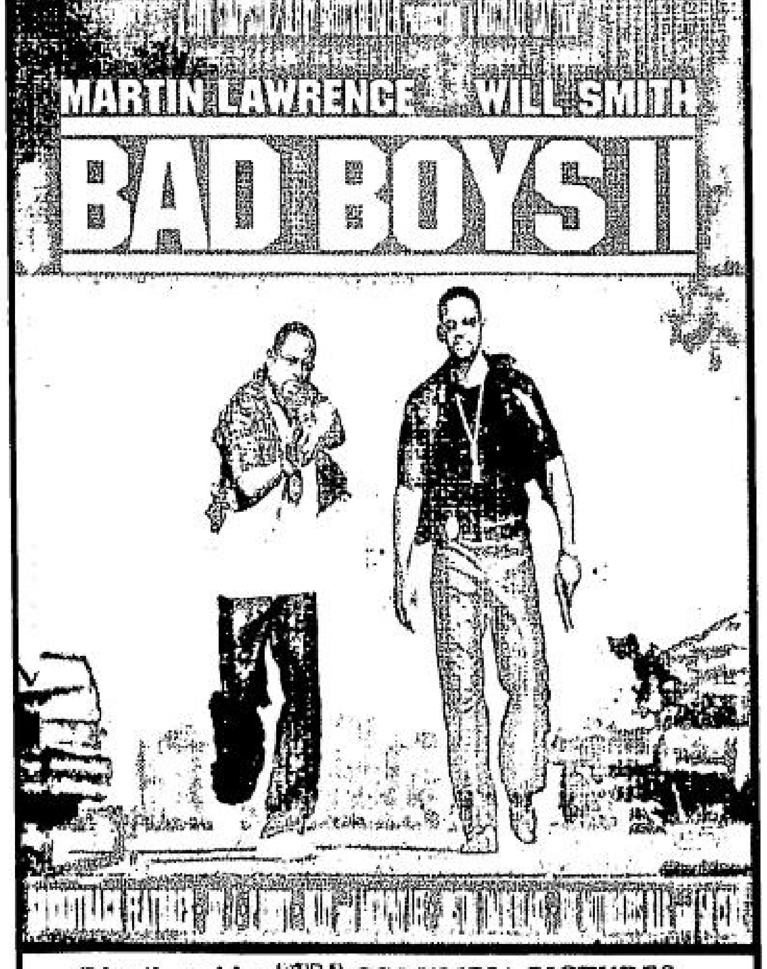
MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II



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MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
OPENS JULY 30 !
APPROVE WITHOUT CUTS.
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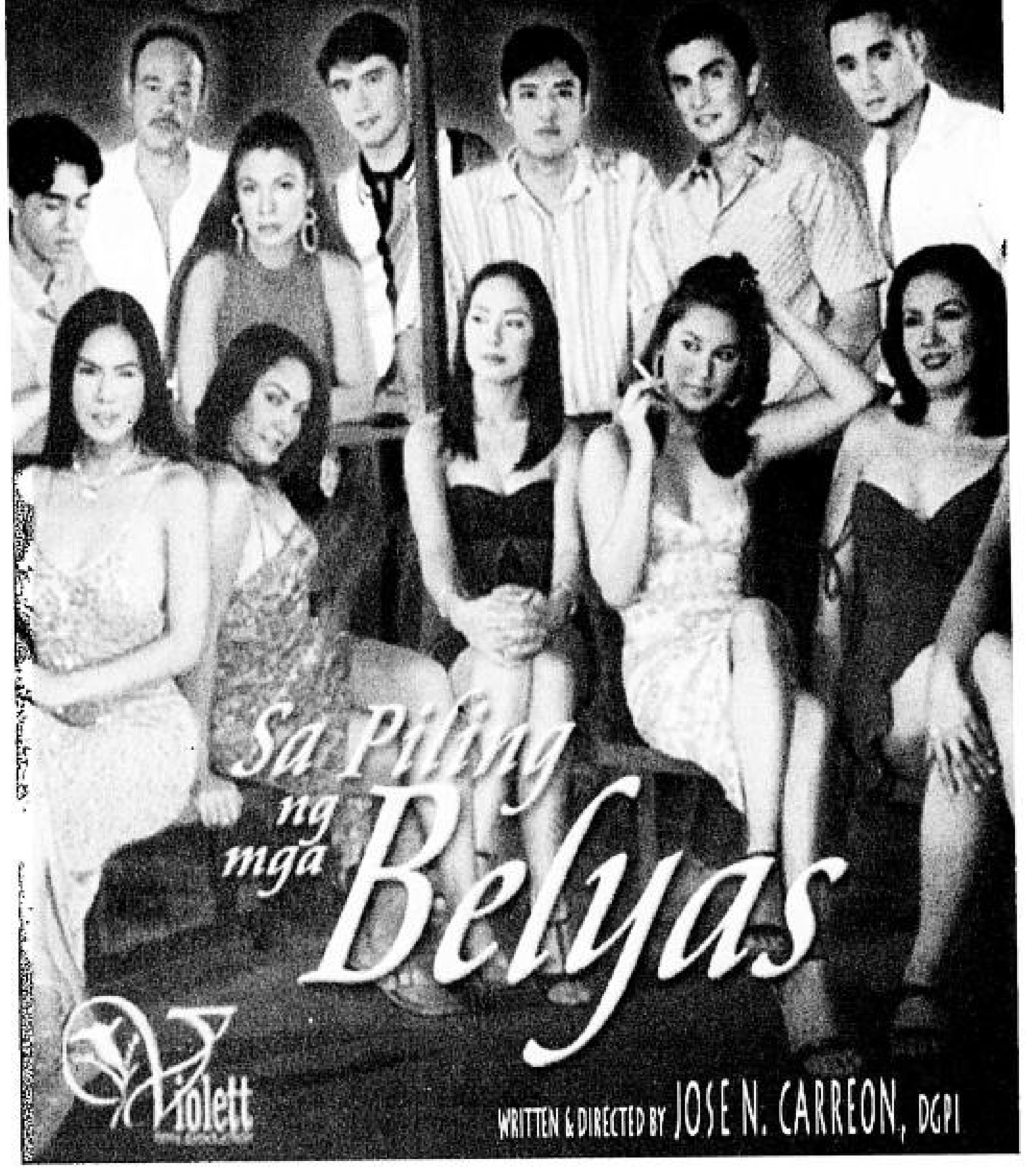
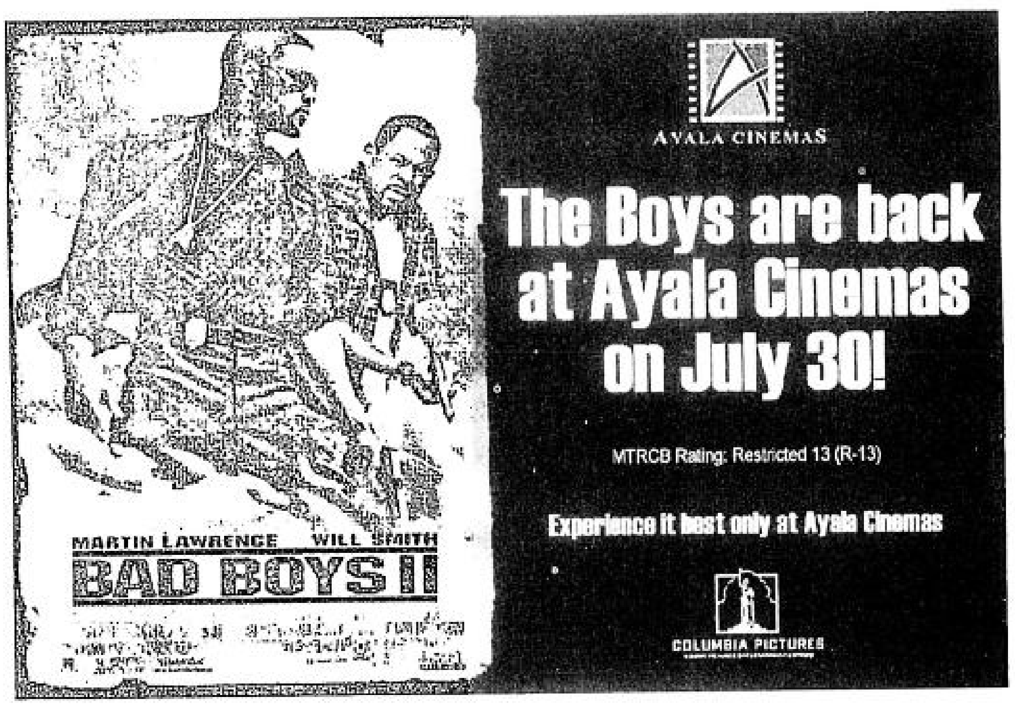
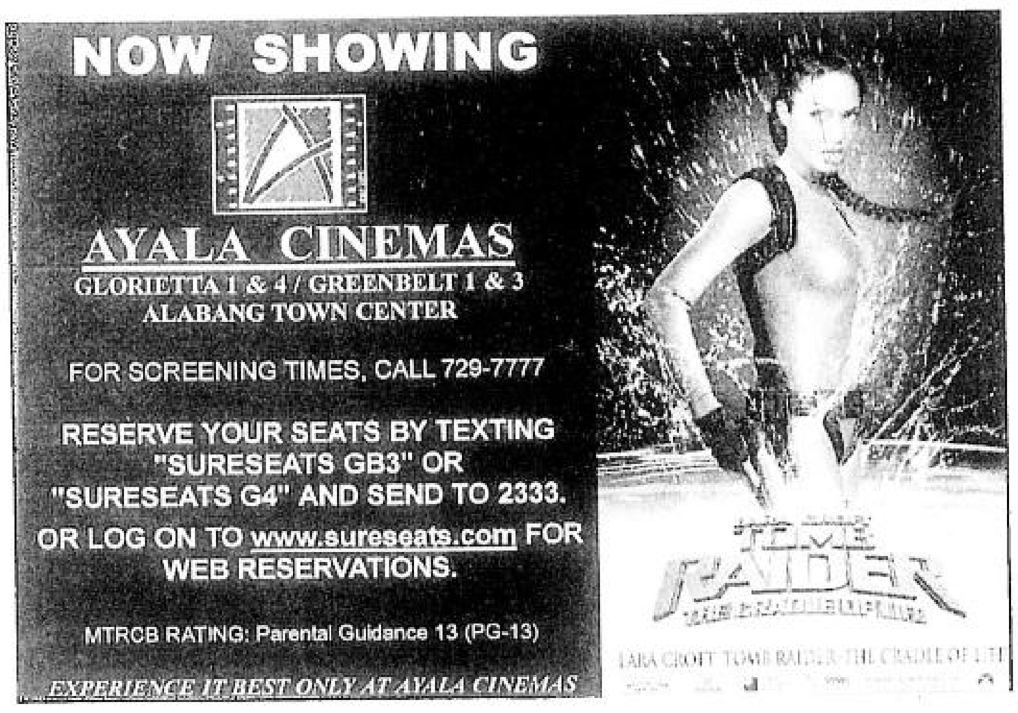
PINKY AMADOR AND MARK GIL
VIOLETT BELLES
JASMINE COLLINS JAIRA GOMEZ JULIA LOPEZ
SHEENA SANDOVAL GINGER SMITH SOFIA VALDEZ



Sa Piling ng mga Belyas
Violett
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI



MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II
AYALA CINEMAS
The Boys are back at Ayala Cinemas on July 30!
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
Experience it best only at Ayala Cinemas
COLUMBIA PICTURES



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EXPERIENCE IT BEST ONLY AT AYALA CINEMAS
TOMB RAIDER
LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER THE CRADLE OF LIFE

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JULY 30 AT ArtFilm
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY
TONY LEUNG KA-FAI DAVID MORSE RENE LIU
DOUBLE VISION
Two men from opposite sides of the world must work together to explain the unexplainable.

- A wealthy businessman accused of spilling toxic waste into the ocean is discovered dead in his office. Although the room is completely dry, he is believed to have drowned.
- A beautiful mistress of a government official has been burned to death in her home, although there are no signs of fire anywhere.
- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality.

MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA

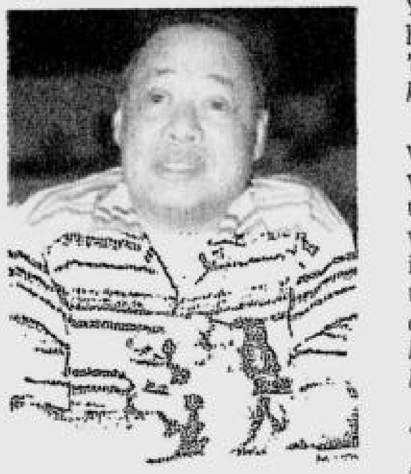
The Gil Portes tales

From page C8

did not want to go because it was dangerous. Nanay said, 'If you're not coming, I'm going alone.' Of course, he wouldn't let her go alone. He went with her. Carmen's husband was there to receive the items.

"The following day, Army soldiers came to our house asking Nanay why she was supporting the Huk. *Sabi ng Nanay, ano'ng suporta? Ang kaibigan ko may sakit, manganganak, kailangan ng tulong,* blah blah blah blah. There was a long argument in the house and Nanay was not afraid."

"In my early years, I saw social injustice. *Bakit nagka-Huk? Bakit may mahirap?* My eyes were opened to injustice at an early age."



Sundays at the movies

Nanay knew very well that my brother and I, specially I, loved to watch movies. We would watch a movie on weekends. Just to be sure we could watch a movie, instead of eating in a restaurant, which was more expensive, she would buy food from itinerant vendors at the Kapitolyo for snacks and lunch. *Palakad-lakad lang kami sa* park. We ate there. The money saved from eating in a restaurant, we would spend in watching a movie. For water to drink, we would ask from a canteen on the ground floor of the Kapitolyo. My mother was doing that because she wanted us to have money for a movie.

"And my brother and I had to watch alternately with Nanay. This weekend, it's your turn. Next weekend, it's mine. *Hindi sabay dahil mahal ang sine.*"

The Hollywood movie "Trapeze," starring Burt Lancaster, Gina Lollobrigida and Rock Hudson, soon came to Lucena. "Everybody was talking about it, that the characters were flying in the air. And I was already imagining myself watching it."

"That Sunday, I went to the first Mass, 7 o'clock. I had been behaved the whole week. *Ang kapatid ko naiiyak na.* It wasn't his turn, but he wanted to swap turns. In exchange, I would get three consecutive weekends of movies. No way, I said, *pero naaawa ako.*"

"So I watched 'Trapeze.' Actually I was disappointed with the movie. That night, my brother asked me to tell him the story. You know, I jazzed it up in telling him. *Pinaganda ko sa kuwento. E 'di lalong naglaway itong kapatid ko.*

"Many, many years after that, we were in college in Manila. I went to UST, philosophy and letters, and took up journalism. I wanted to go to UP, for journalism. But the whole town was telling my parents, *naku madaldal 'yang anak ninyo, magiging komunista 'yan sa UP. UST na lang. O sige,* fine."

"And then, *ibinalik 'yang* 'Trapeze' *na 'yan. Sa* Scala, *sa* Avenida. Second run. My brother watched it. We didn't talk about it, if he liked it or not."

"And then I saw an essay he had written *na pakalat-kalat.* And in it, he said he was disappointed that he watched Trapeze. "The version of my brother was better," he wrote. That was really very flattering. I always remember that. That brother, who was younger, had told himself he would always be second fiddle, that I would make it. He had accepted that."

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

My brother Raul

One of Portes' dream movies is the story of two brothers, his brother and himself. *"Malungkpt ang nangyari diyan sa kapatid ko,"* he says.

"MIGUEL/MICHELLE," starring Romnick Sarmienta

"When we were kids, my brother and I would make movies, puppets, with lights, under our house. My brother would hold up the blanket for a screen. And we would charge our playmates and neighbors to watch. I actually wanted to be an *artista. Mahilig akong umarte,* because of the movies I saw and the *komiks* I read. I memorized the *komiks.*

"The first Filipino movie I watched was 'Sarawak,' starring Teody Belarmino and Paraluman. Tatay was wondering why I knew the dialog. Have you seen this movie? No, I read the *komiks* version and memorized it.

"In high school, I was in school plays in Lucena. I wasn't studying. I didn't graduate with honors, I graduated actor of the year. After graduation, my dream was to be a journalist. I wrote Carlos P. Romulo and he would answer, encouraging me to read and write. And then the writing ambition went away. In college, the dream was to write the great Filipino novel. Now the dream is to direct the great Filipino film.

"Soon," he adds with loud laughter.

Portes first studied abroad in New York, where he mastered in film and TV at the City University of New York. Then he became a British Council scholar at the BBC in London, where he took up film and television production. When he came home, he worked at ABS.

"I was directing my first TV show, a horror show called 'Limbo,' when martial law was declared. And I thought it was the end of the world for me. I talked to Kit Tatad (then the Marcos executive secretary), an old friend from UST. I was asking for help to get an exit visa to go back to the US. He told me, "work for us." Greg Cendaña of NPMC (National Media Production Center) hired me to be a roving producer-director, following around some of the leading personalities of martial law—Enrile, etc. That experience opened so many ugly truths.

"So I came back from London. My brother was in Bicol, a dealer-sales rep for Kodak. It was November. I said we would see each other during the Pagbilao town fiesta, Nov. 25. He reminded me of his *pasalubong.*

"One afternoon, there was a call from the secretary of the American GM of Kodak. Could I go to Kodak? They could send a car for me. I said I could take a cab. Why, what's the problem? Is it about my brother? He said, yes.

"Part of my brother's job was handling money. Nanay was afraid he might be tempted to malverse, would be robbed, etc. When I got the call, I was also thinking of that. *Baka nag*-malverse. *Sana naman nanakawan lang, sabi ko. Pagdating ko sa* Kodak, everyone was looking at me. My god, *ano kayang krimen ang ginawa nitong kapatid ko?* I was ushered into the office of the GM. He shook my hand and then he showed me a telegram from the Bicol hospital: 'Please claim the body of Raul Portes.'

"I thought of my mom. How would she take this? A train was leaving that night for Bicol, from Tutuban. I took the train. It was a beautiful night. The stars were beautiful and I was crying. I remember that when my brother and I were both in college, the family had a financial problem, and he volunteered to stop studying. He was always giving. He accepted that I would be bringing the honors to the family, and he would be second fiddle. *Iyak ako nang iyak.*"

"When I arrived in Bicol, I was told not to proceed to Sorsogon because there were NPAs. I had to wait for the body to come that night. I went to my brother's boarding house. I saw a *barong* Tagalog. His landlady said, *kasi aabay sa Pasko 'yang kapatid ninyo. 'Yun pala gagamitin na niya 'yung barong.*

"In a lamp on his night table was tucked a clipping from the Express, about me and my stint in the BBC. *P---ng ama, talagang* I broke down! *Hanggang ngayon, sabi ko, itong kapatid ko bilib sa akin.*"

"That night the body arrived and I was still hoping it wasn't him. It was an ordinary coffin. When it was opened, I saw it was my brother. His plane had a two-hour delay and he went swimming with friends. His head hit coral and he died of brain concussion. And I was still thinking how my Nanay would take this."

"The day I arrived in Lucena with the body, I was peering from the front of the train. There was a group of women in black to meet us. *Ay*! I cannot forget that."

"GATAS sa Dibdib ng Kaaway," starring (from left) Kenji Marquez, Mylene Dizon and Jomari Yllana

My friend and his uncle

This one is another dream movie.

"I had a friend who had a priest uncle. Every weekend we would play in his house, but his mother would not let us when the priest was there. *Magulo raw kami.*

"Every Saturday we would bathe our dogs in the river, and then we waited for the *Sabadista* who did their baptism in the river. We said, *bakit hindi tayo mag-Sabadista, ang ganda pala.* Of course we're Catholics.

"One time, we fetched my friend from his house, even when we knew the priest was there. We were to go swimming. My friend came running out of their house, crying, and he went to my house. He did not talk to us. He talked to Nanay, who did not tell me his problem."

"I will not even mention his name because he's still there.

"I found out that he saw his mother making love with the priest. And what is tragic about this is" (here, Portes' voice lowers to a whisper, although nobody else is in the room except him and INQUIRER) "his priest uncle was his mother's brother. And my friend had a sibling. Their father was the priest."

"*Napaka*-cinematic! I learned that this is what happened. When the woman got pregnant, the priest forced the *sacristan mayor,* the church caretaker, to marry her. But they eventually separated because there was no love."

"My friend stopped going to school. I think he went to school in another town. He didn't mix with other kids. He got married, he has a family, but we've never talked about it. I think he knows that I know."

"*Ay, naku, 'pag ginawa kong pelikula ang* growing-up years *ko, 'ay naku, ang ganda-ganda! Walang makakatalo.* One of these days. One of these days."

While we wait for the Gil Portes story to be transformed into a film, let us savor his other movies, and his tales.

17:28 FREE FOR ALL

The all-boys band known as 17:28, which is behind the current song "Come Breathe With Me," will have a show at the Hard Rock Café on Saturday, Aug. 2. Jonard Yanzon, Gian Magdangal, Chino Alfonso and Joaquin Valdes will sing R&B, love songs and dance hits, and will be backed by Funk Degree. The concert is presented by Stages Inc., in cooperation with PLDT, Star Records, Magic 89.9 dwTM, and Hard Rock Café. Showtime is 9:30 p.m. Best of all, entrance is free!

Where have all...

From page C7

Let's see "Craig Kilborne" or reruns of the defunct "Politically Incorrect" with Bill Maher, or any other show featured on E!'s "Talk Soup," a show that collects the funniest clips from US talk shows. Bring back that Aisha Tyler riot fest, too. Anything to keep midnight television from becoming dreadfully dull.

There's definitely a strong audience out there that will appreciate them. TV just isn't the same without their sophisticated and lowbrow satire. And majority of the guests aren't bad to look at, either.

Former shoplifter...

From page C1

prayed everyday that I would turn into a mermaid. Even if that wouldn't happen in real life, at least, I could turn into a mermaid in a movie."

There is nothing more she could wish for in her present life, except to be able to react normally to things, like being rude to a waiter who had been rude to her.

"If I did that, it would be in the tabloids the next day," she says.

Alessandra eyes a young woman, not much older than herself, who is looking at the cakes displayed on the counter of the restaurant where this interview is taking place. Earlier, the woman gave her a look of both amusement and contempt. Alessandra mimics the look behind the woman's back.

Does she envy the woman's anonymity?

Alessandra raises an eyebrow, a hint of a smile playing on her lips.

"Shouldn't she be the one envying me?" she asks, as she sashays toward the restaurant's door with only a red cap shielding her popularity.

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Unusual combination

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

VIC Vargas was absent from local TV and movie screens for many film seasons, but he started to make his comeback this year. Unfortunately, he was recently felled by a stroke, so he wasn't given the chance to move back up to his singularly stellar level during his prime. Still, Vic was such a standout star that he will be fondly remembered in the coming years.

He may have started out as an action star because of his being an athlete, but Vic quickly moved on to playing a wide range of other roles, first at Sampaguita Pictures, then much later as a freelance star.

Instructively, a number of his screen triumphs were megged by National Artist **Ishmael Bernal**—"Pagdating sa Dulo," "El Vibora" and "Pito ang Asawa Ko," to mention only three of their filmic collaborations.

Ishmael liked working with Vic because he combined macho appeal, dramatic ability, and a naughty wit. This unusual combination made his screen performances textured and full of surprises—traits which perfectly jibed with Ishmael's unconventional way of making movies.

Since Ishmael was a friend, we got to know Vic rather well, and were around when "Pagdating" and "Vibora" were being shot. Like Ishmael, we also ended up admiring Vic's knack for coming up with substantial portrayals without being glumly serious in his approach.

Vic's unique ability was his penchant for making the difficult look breezily easy to achieve.

In "El Vibora," for instance, he would be joking around with the crew while a shot was being lined up, then he would instantly focus on the scene as Ishmael yelled, "Action!" and he would do the shot impeccably in only that one take.

The only other film actor we know who had this rare ability was **Vic Silayan**, who would also treat acting as a lark, but consistently deliver memorably informed performances.

"Pito ang Asawa Ko" was a riotous comedy that cast Vic in the role of a jolly philanderer who finally got his comeuppance in the end. To our mind, it is one of the best local sex comedies ever filmed, and it's good enough to be reissued, or remade.

Our longest association with Vic was in **Eddie Romero**'s "Hari sa Hari," which we shot for five months in China. He played the title role of the *datu* who led a tribute expedition all the way to China, and died there.

During those five eventful months, we got to know Vic as the complex person and artist he was. We discovered that we shared a love for sketching, so that added a new dimension to our friendship.

Some weeks ago, "Hari sa Hari" was screened again at the CCP, as a highlight of Fil-Chinese Friendship Day. Vic was able to make it to the screening, and was complimented for his striking performance in Romero's film, which has stood the test of time, almost 20 years after it was first shown.

We didn't know it then, but that would be the last time we would see Vic. Still, we choose to believe that the special screening of one of his biggest starrers was a fitting farewell appearance for one of local filmdom's most versatile actors.

BERNAL

FAREWELL, VIC. Vargas in Romero's "Hari sa Hari"

'Angie Girl'

ABS-CBN's newest animated show for children, "Angie Girl," airs M-F at 9:30 a.m. on Channel 2. Set in England in the late 1800s, "Angie Girl" is about a young girl who comes from a wealthy family but likes to devote her time not to frivolous activities but to solving the mysteries in her neighborhood.

Angie is helped by her friend, Detective Michael from Scotland Yard. Their antagonist is Inspector Jackson, who constantly tries to make them put a stop to their investigations.

Loosely based on stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, "Angie Girl" is the result of the partnership between Nippon Animation and Fumio Kurokawa, the same team that created "Princess Sarah."

Crimefighting Wednesdays

WEDNESDAY nights on Studio 23 feature two crimefighting series: "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" starts off the sleuthing action at 8 p.m., starring **William Petersen** and Emmy best actress nominee **Marg Helgenberger**.

At 9 p.m., "Alias" topbills **Jennifer Garner**, who has become a major draw in her own right as a result of the worldwide success of her crimebusting show.

'Game K N B' in Baguio

"GAME Ka Na Ba" this week will be telecast from Camp John Hay in Baguio. Celebrity players: July 28, **Albert** and **Liezel Martinez**, followed by **Angelica Jones**, **Mahal** and **Mura**, **Isko Salvador**, and **Ciara Sotto** and **Onemig Bondoc**. The celebrities' prize money will go to their favorite charities. **Kris Aquino** is the game show's host.

AGNELLI and Nelson

Big Fish sets up dance music heaven on Aug. 2

TAKE a ride with Big Fish into dance music heaven on Aug. 2 as it brings back the legendary UK club Godskitchen for the third straight year at the NBC Tent.

For the Godskitchen dance gathering, the NBC Tent will be transformed by scene pioneers MO Style into a dance music heaven.

Headlining the event are the Irish pair, Agnelli and Nelson, the producer/DJs responsible for the "Massive" Ibiza classic track "El Niño." Agnelli and Nelson promise to treat all clubbers to their wide range of tech-trance music on Aug. 2.

Big Fish resident DJ TC will open the show at 10 p.m.

Tickets are P500, P250 for existing or swapping Smart subscribers and guests who present any Axe product at the entrance. Free entrance tickets plus one drink will be given to guests who will subscribe to Addict Mobile during the event.

Tickets are available at Tower Records and Music One.

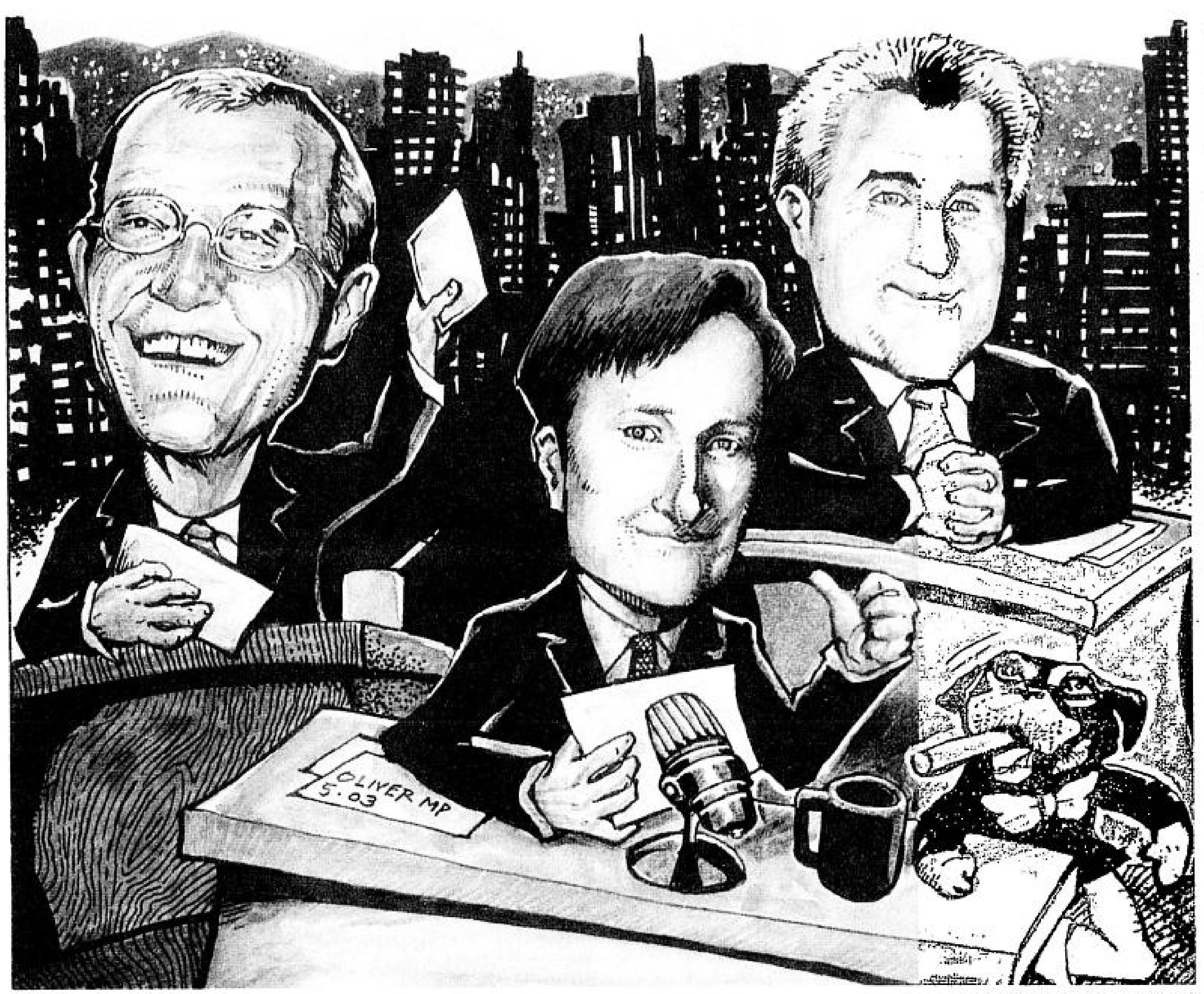


ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVER M. PULUMBARIT

Where have all the late night talk shows gone?

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

LATE night talk shows have been longtime fixtures in many night owls' viewing schedules. Nocturnal workers or insomniacs tune in to these shows not only to be updated on what's new in the entertainment biz abroad, but also because most of these shows are an escape from many demeaning inanities with which the nightly TV-scapes, both free and cable, have been constantly bombarding the remote control wielder.

But there's currently a void left by the disappearance of three major US talk shows.

Last November, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" vanished from CNBC Asia (it disappeared from ZOE TV 11 months before), together with the show that preceded it, "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Saturday and Sunday viewing routines suddenly became lacking, as CNBC Asia has no immediate plans to bring back the two shows.

Many Filipino fans are missing Conan O'Brien. And while not many people will admit to be devout fans of Jay Leno, his big-name guests have been sorely missed as well. E! Philippines has been off the air for months now, and with it, "The Late Show with David Letterman."

Constant companions

It's uncertain whether the veteran, gap-toothed funnyman's program will reappear here (if and when E! Philippines returns), but its absence is becoming really felt. For months, it was the only late night bastion of irreverence, Letterman's grumpy-old-man wit a welcome perspective on current events.

These shows have been constant companions for years, whether one tunes in to relax after a hectic day, or to just keep them as ambient company during work or, for some people, play. The talk show format has been very comfortable, despite its consistent formula of monologues, sketches, guest interviews and musical performances. But each show is different, and a host has to prove himself each and every evening to keep things unpredictable.

Leno has been weak in terms of comedic subtlety: Almost every joke is a descent into torturous depths. His monologues crawl and his sketches generally feel forced. You'll question how much he and his writers are getting.

But while he's not a comedian in the truest sense, Leno is a good host and conversationalist. He makes guests comfy with his too-chummy hugs when they come onstage, and conducts interviews that are usually diplomatic thereafter. In that respect, he can make things lively, as his polite banter often takes control of situations when his guests have difficulty expressing themselves.

Most missed

Being the ratings winner that it is, "The Tonight Show" gets the most popular Hollywood celebs as guests, plugging their latest potential blockbusters. Letterman employs a more self-deprecating comedic style, coupled with old-guy snootiness. His bits are comfortably weird time-fillers like "Hairpiece, Not a Hairpiece" or "Know Your Cuts of Meat." Much of his humor is characterized by outsider cynicism, which pretty much translates as antagonistic bitterness that his audience can easily relate to.

He's not being concerned with being out of the loop, and he is funnier when he mentions something trendy or youth-related.

The most missed talk show by far is O'Brien's. This has long been a favorite of a cross-section of geeks and people with similarly inclined tastes, and rightly so. Hosted by the hip brainiac himself, this show has a rabid following that can't get enough of the cleverest, most scathing mirth that's only rarely glimpsed at on TV.

If that sounds like too much high praise, it deserves it. Just ask any fan. O'Brien pokes fun at himself as much as he does anyone. He and his equally smart crew of writers create the most intricate sketches, and their fun quickly infects the audience.

One of the beloved characters that had its debut on this show is Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, a puppet by one of O'Brien's writers, Robert Smigel. Triumph, too, is much missed for his tactless antics. In the 2002 MTV Music Awards, he remarked on celebrities walking on the red carpet, and one of his mockeries went, "There's Christina Aguilera . . . still looking like a desperate groupie . . ."

Top priority

Let's hope that some local networks are sensible enough to bring back these talk shows, preferably "Conan O'Brien" at the top of the priority list. We need more substantial irreverence before the day ends. They can move those texting programs before or after the talk shows.

WHERE/ C6

'Juan Night Only'

SHOW TIME

RODRIGO

SOAP opera star Juan Rodrigo will be featured in a ballroom show titled "Juan Night Only," with actress and dancer Yvonne Salcedo, on July 31, 8 p.m., at the Harmony Place on Annapolis Street in Greenhills.

Rodrigo, who just had a show in San Francisco, California, will also be doing a series of shows with his band Friends Inc.

"Juan Night Only" is a production of L.A. Events International Inc. and Harmony Dance Palace.

Salcedo, the youngest daughter of the late actor Leopoldo Salcedo, has done several movies with Fernando Poe Jr.

Viewers of "Juan Night Only," will be treated to raffle prizes from VeraLuz Int'l.

For more details, call Arlene at 631-9459 or 688-0280.

Aubrey Miles, recording star, in Robinsons malls

SCREEN and television siren Aubrey Miles will tour the Robinsons malls to promote her debut album from Prime Records.

She will be at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas on Aug. 3, Robinsons Metro East on Aug. 24 and at Robinsons Place Imus on Sept. 27.

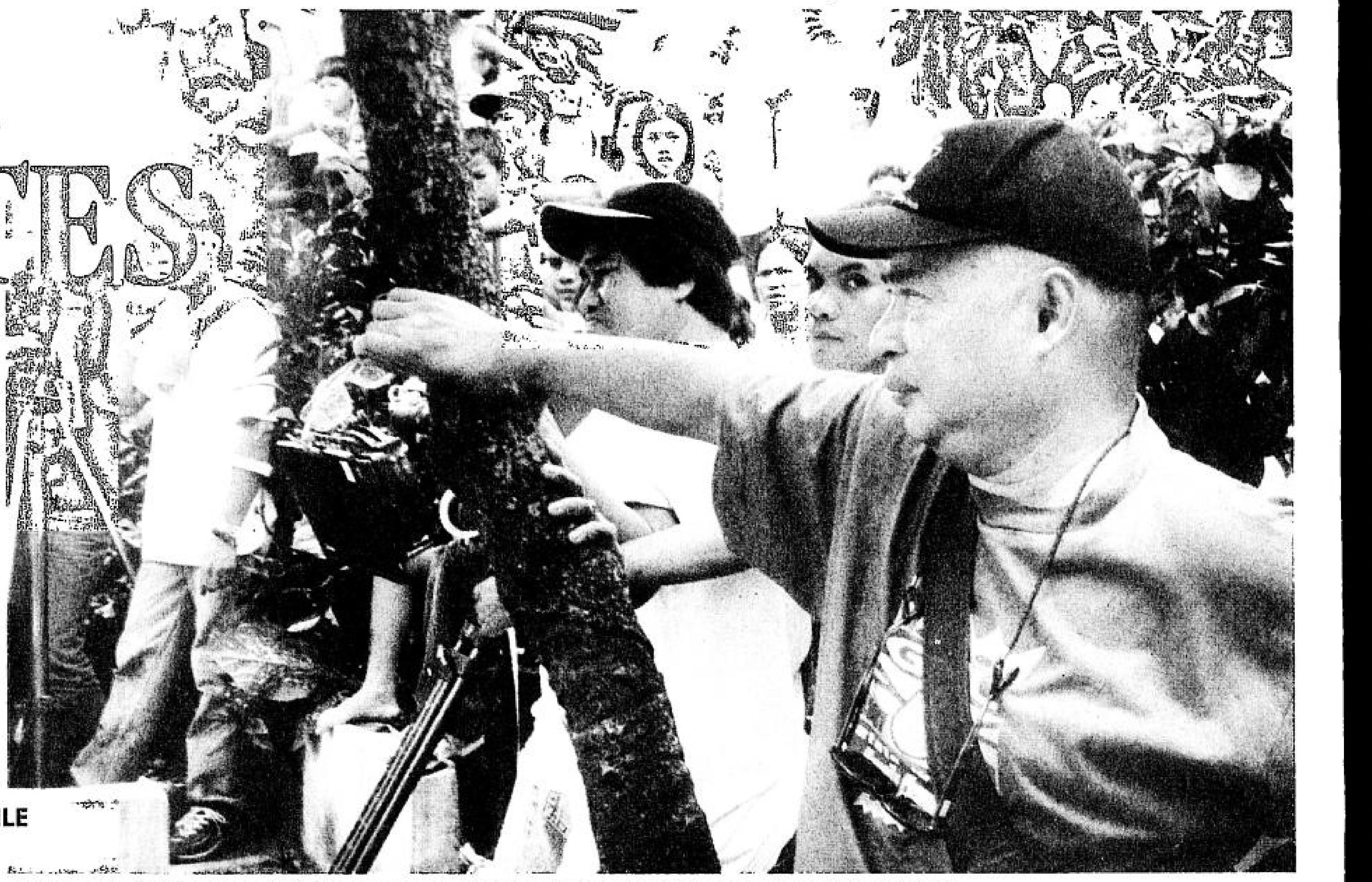
Her self-titled album has 7 original compositions and 3 OPM revivals. The carrier single, "Sorry Na Lang," is currently enjoying radio playtime.

For inquiries, call the Robinsons Ad & Promo Department at 6327662 or 6337641-90 locals 175/176.

The Gil PORTES tales

By Louie C. Camino

PROFILE



THE LITTLE FILM that could. Portes in the process of creating "Mga Munting Tinig," starring Alessandra de Rossi (below)

ASK filmmaker Gil Portes a question and he will tell you a story. It's always a full story that's so interesting it can make you forget what your question is in the first place. And it's often moving, just like his fine movies.

"Bata pa 'ko, tsismoso na 'ko," says the 58-year-old director of "Mga Munting Tinig," the most honored Filipino movie of 2002 and this year so far. If his stories are gossip, they are suspenseful, funny, moving gossip. They are, however, far above gossip but tales told very well by a man whose mind works like a movie camera, who sees the cinematic in the everyday, whose words, like a well written script, transform the ordinary into the novel and the astounding.

He is never without a tale to tell, even when he is in a hospital bed and his story is about the insect bite that got him in the leg, that swelled beyond expectations and sent him to the hospital. He tells good stories well, like he makes his fine films, always in a gripping, luminous and intelligent way, whether the subject is an insect bite, or happy and unhappy gays who are young ("Miguel/Michelle") and old ("Markova, Comfort Gay"), murder and corruption through the eyes of a child ("Saranggola"), war and remembrance ("Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway"), change and resistance ("Mulanay"), or adversity and triumph ("Mga Munting Tinig").

Portes tells his stories well because he likes to hear, and see them told well, too. He launches into one of his stories to illustrate: "I saw a Maverick movie of Ogie (Alcasid) and Michael V, directed by Tony Reyes and shown a few months ago. *Nabitbit lang ako sa* premiere night, and I went because the trailer of 'Mga Munting Tinig' was going to be shown and I wanted to see the reaction to the trailer. I said I would leave after the trailer was shown, *pero nahiya naman akong lumabas agad*. And the director was only a few seats away.

"I was pleasantly surprised that I enjoyed the film. I was laughing and laughing and laughing, and laughing. And then the movie was over, *pero masaya pa rin ang pakiramdam ko*. Maybe that film will not go to Cannes, but it entertained the audience. *Ni hindi nabanggit 'yan sa mga* award-award. *Ako pa naman ang napakahirap ma*-entertain. *Diyos ko, napakarami kong* demand *sa* film."

When those demands are met, you have a good story as well as a good film as defined by Portes: "A good film? A good film should not bore the audience," he says. "When the audience is not bored, it follows that the story is logical, the characters are developing, the acting is fine, the production values are in place. The major responsibility of a director when he makes a film is for him not to bore the audience. When the audience is bored, even for a moment, then the director is not doing his job."

Portes certainly did his job, and did it very well indeed, when he created "Mga Munting Tinig" (Little Voices), the "little" indie movie that nearly brought Philippine cinema within arm's reach of Hollywood's Oscar, is his most successful film abroad, and is the first Filipino work to be distributed by Warner Bros. Early this year, "Tinig" won the best picture awards from the Philippine Movie Press Club Star Awards, the Famas, and the Urian.

It did not win the Film Academy of the Philippines best picture trophy—it was not even nominated—because, says Portes, "it is written in the stars that 'Lapu-Lapu' will win that award. They liked that film, okay, fine."

The snub was not easily forgotten by Portes, especially since it was the FAP that sent "Mga Munting Tinig" to the Academy Awards for consideration in the foreign film category.

"They also sent my 'Gatas,' and 'Saranggola' to the Oscars, and these were also not included in the FAP best picture nominations. *Ang rason nila, dalawa raw ang mata ng* FAP, *isang nagpapadala sa* Oscars, *isang namimili para sa* local awards. But whose eye is better?"

Portes makes it clear: "We're not fighting, but, well, I am not popular with most of them. I'm not one of them. FAP is FPJ, Rudy Fernandez, Phillip Salvador, Lito Lapid. These people are destined to win the FAP awards, in one way or another. Ipe (Salvador) has seven best actor awards from the FAP. Rudy bested Cesar Montano who was in 'Rizal.' 'Rizal' itself lost.

HAPPY AND GAY. With "Markova, Comfort Gay" star Eric Quizon in character

Prizing awards

"Wala pa raw ganyang pelikula na nakatatlong best picture awards *na*," he says of his own "Tinig." "And the movie was one of the most fun and easiest to do. We were fooling around for 15 days. We knew it would be a good film, we knew it would go to festivals. I felt it. But we didn't expect it to win a grandslam. *Minsan lang kaming naglamay* during the filming, when we had to finish the scenes of Amy Austria because she couldn't come back the next day."

Among other awards in international exhibitions, "Tinig" shared the audience award with Germany's "Nowhere in Africa" at the Palm Springs filmfest; the German movie went on to win the Oscar best foreign film prize. "Tinig" won best picture, director and screenplay at the Palm Beach International Film Festival. In 2002, the American Film Institute (AFI) named it one of 10 New Asian Classics for the year.

Portes admits without batting an eyelash that "of course, I value awards." "I value them so much because they're a recognition of your work. You can't use them to raise or double your talent fee. But the 30 seconds of fame, or one minute, is important, not only for your ego but also for your movies, your reputation, your self-fulfillment.

"May nagsasabi diyan, hmph, 'di naman importante yang mga award-award *na 'yan. Hindi totoo 'yan. Sabi lang nila 'yan, hanggang hindi pa nila nakukuha*. But if they're given the award, *tatakbo sila sa* stage, *maski madapa 'yan, at tatanggapin ang* award. *Ang* award, *hindi mapapalitan 'yan ng* talent fee. That little trophy is a recognition of your work. It's a legacy you will leave behind."

Filipino filmmakers, according to him, should look beyond the Philippine audience and work with the world in mind. *"Yan talaga ang dapat ang isipin natin ngayon. 'Pag hindi natin inisip yan, walang mangyayari sa atin.* The market is getting smaller and smaller, competition here is so tough. There's 'X-Men,' there's 'Matrix,' there's 'Charlie's Angels,' there is God knows what. *Lahat 'yan inaabangan ng tao. Paano ka pa lalaban sa mga pelikulang yan?"*

Going global

"Of course, I'm not suggesting we compete with the big Hollywood films. We cannot."

"Let's look at the experience of Iran. They do small films, simple, character-driven films, but these films are all over the world. 'Children of Heaven,' *napaka-simple lang, napakaganda* (and which, incidentally, influenced his own 'Tinig'). *'Yan ang tumalo sa* 'Saranggola,' at the Montreal Film Festival. The director, Majid Majidi, became my friend. The next time we met in Montreal, the winner was his 'The Color of Paradise.' *Suki 'yan sa* Montreal. *Laging nanalo 'yan."*

When it comes to penetrating the foreign film market, the Philippines is "way, way behind, way, way behind," he says, shaking his head. "'Tinig' has achieved something. It has opened doors for me. Hopefully, it will open doors for other Filipino films."

These days, Portes is working on his SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) movie, "Homecoming," which has qualified as one of the 10 films to be shown in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

"I'm fascinated," he says of the subject. "I'm curious."

While followers of fine Filipino films and of Portes works are curiously waiting to see how he will tell his SARS story, let us listen to his other tales, which might be made into Gil Portes movies, too.

'A good film should not bore the audience'

The Huk wife

Portes grew up in Pagbilao, Quezon, a small town about 10 kilometers from Lucena City, in the early '50s, the era of Huks, rebels in Luzon provinces. Portes was one of four children, but when this story took place, there were only two of them.

"We were not poor," he remembers. His parents were both government employees. His father was a hard worker who also traded in pigs and fish, and the couple also ran a stall in the Sunday market. "We were eating good food," says Portes. His mother was a good writer who taught him the rudiments of writing, he adds.

"Every evening, when the Huks attacked the town, *bitbit kami ng tatay ko, ako at ang kapatid kong si* Raul. Under our house, we had a *paksol*. Actually it's foxhole. *Tinagalog, paksol.* Below ground level, the poor man's air raid shelter. We would hide there with my parents, even the maids. While the shooting was going on, my brother and I were excited. *'Pag hindi lumulusob ang mga* Huk, *nalulungkot kami*. So boring!"

"Our town had no water, no electricity. There was running water, but only for a few hours of the day. *Walang kuryente*. In our area, we were the only ones who had a Coleman lamp. We were the only ones who had a transistor radio, *'yung* Avegon, *kaya lahat ng* soap *pinapakinggan namin*. That was our contact to the outside world, the Avegon transistor radio. That's how it started, my love for show business and cinema, for storytelling. At 10 in the morning, we listened to DZRH, In the evening, horror-horror *na*."

The Portes family had a maid named Carmen, who brought up the boy who would be a filmmaker and his brother Raul.

"She was a big influence in my life. She married a Huk member and left our employ to join her husband. One day, there was a letter from Carmen addressed to Nanay. She was going to give birth. She was asking for medicine, for money, some canned goods. Nanay was an activist. She told my father, 'Tonight at 10, we will go to the *tapahan* of the town. The *tapahan* is where you make the copra. Carmen's husband was to be there to receive the medicine, etc. My father

THE GIL/ C6

LIFESTYLE
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
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Witty script, rather than spectacle, will hook audience to 'Honk'

FRANCO Laurel as Ugly Duckling; Carlo Orosa also takes on the role.

Trumpets' new production is the modern-day retelling of the classic 'Ugly Duckling' tale

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

EXPECT a raging blizzard, a homely cottage, and an expanse of green meadows, not to mention a cat-and-bird chase between the villain and the hero. But Trumpets' production of "Honk!," the Olivier award-winning musical of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, will rely more on the witty script than the standard spectacle that audiences of the gospel-family-oriented theater company have come to expect.

"Honk!" is the modern-day retelling of the classic "Ugly Duckling" tale. Ugly (Carlo Orosa and Franco Laurel alternating), the protagonist in the musical, is hatched from an egg but has features that are a total departure from his feathery brood.

As everybody knows, he leaves home to find himself and a place that he can call home, and grows up to be a handsome swan.

"Honk!" fills the gap of that journey. In this coming-of-age story, Ugly runs into Lowbutt the cackling hen (Sheila Francisco/ Nanette Inventor), several militaristic geese, and a smart, sleek cat (Noel Rayos/Tonipet Gaba) who cultivates Ugly's friendship to lower the swan's defenses and eat him for dinner. Ugly's quest is paralleled by his loving mother duck Aida's (Carla Martinez/Agot Isidro) search for him.

Brokenness

Though "Honk!" does not deliver directly the Christian gospel message as in past Trumpets productions "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Little Mermaid," artistic director Audie Gemora says it still conveys a redeeming "biblical truth. That in this broken world where there are a lot of broken identities, you shouldn't let anyone tell you that you are ugly, no matter how different you are. How you are raised will affect you all your life. If you are not affirmed early on, it will scar you."

Orosa describes his character's victory at the end. "I realize I'm a better-looking person as a swan. Once I realize who I [really am] and live with the [characters] who really love me, I can live with my family as a better person."

Aside from Aida's maternal devotion, strong enough to stand with Ugly against the rest of the community, the swan princess (Lana Jalosjos) boosts his confidence and self-esteem.

Director Chari Arespacochaga is confident that both parents and children can connect with the story. "Everybody can relate to it because everyone has an ugly duckling story at some point in their lives. You may have felt that your dad

WITTY/ D2

CHARI Arespacochaga, director

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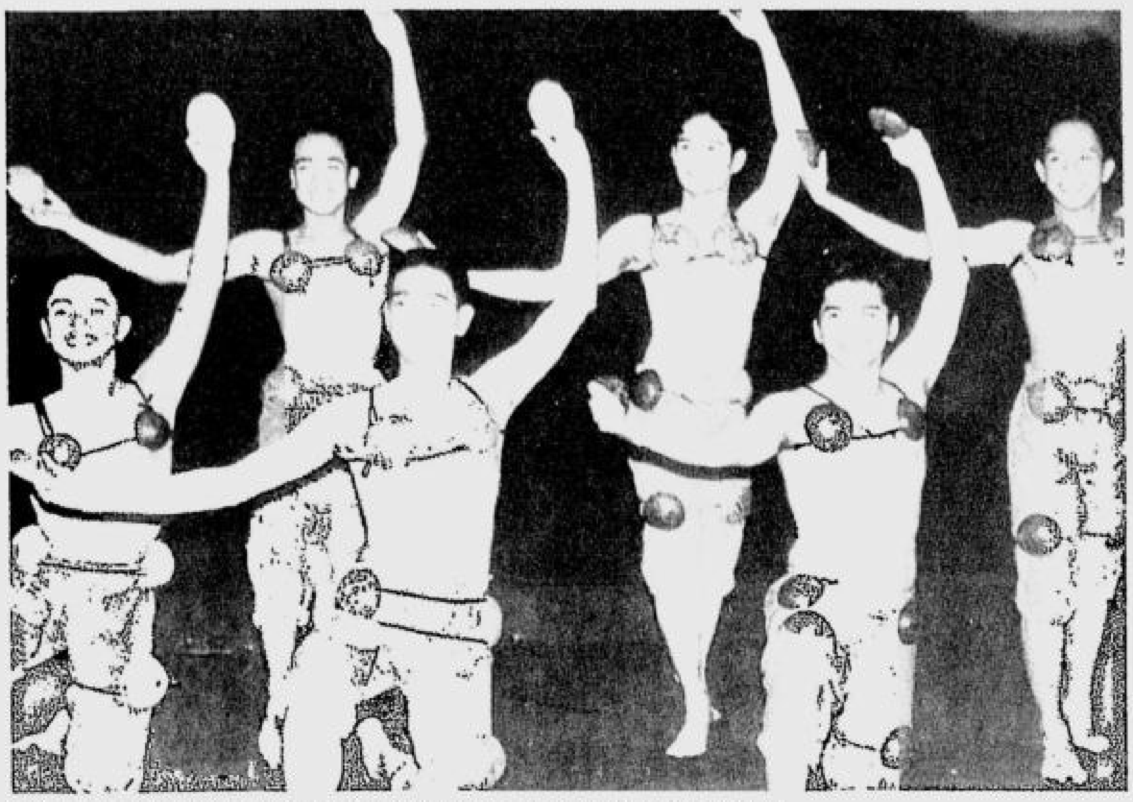

ONE of the dance troupes during the National Arts Month last February

Midyear report card on the performing arts

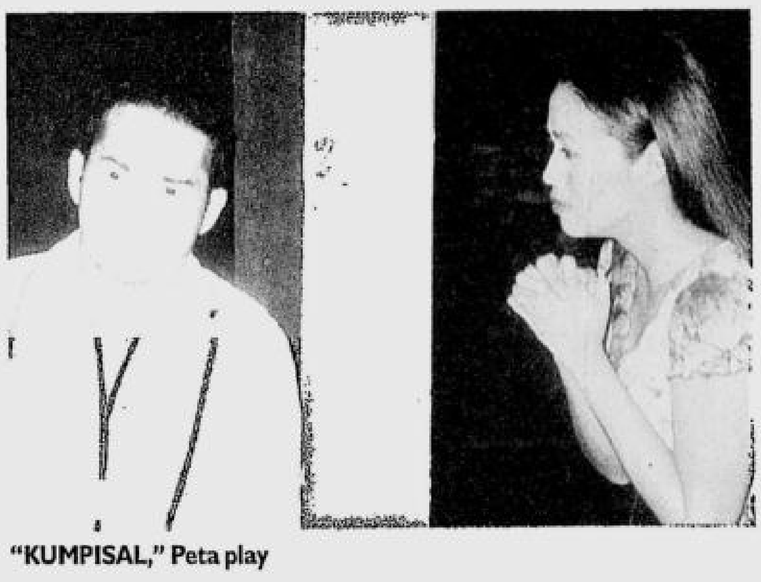
By Amadís Ma.Guerrero
Contributor

2003 GOT off to a good start with a New Year concert by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The guest conductor was Ernest Hoetzl of Austria, and the repertoire was a glorious mix of Austrian and Philippine music, from "Die Fledermaus" to "Walang Sugat." "Bayan Ko," as sung by Rachelle Gerodias and Nolyn Cabahug, was a stirring finale, but at the end their voices were all but drowned out by the orchestra.

Madrid-born Felipe José Ramirez, who is of Spanish-Filipino parentage, tall and lanky, with large, powerful hands, returned to the country and essayed, with impressive results, the formidable Piano Concert #3 by Sergei Prokofiev. Under the baton of master conductor Oscar C. Yatco, the PPO sounded as inspired as the pianist, with the Spanish-speaking community turning out in full force.

The "Majestic Mahler" concert turned out to be a triumph for outgoing PPO conductor Ruggero Barbieri and, in particular, for the woodwind and brass sections of the orchestra. With its shifting moods, ranging from funereal to exultant, Gustav Mahler's Symphony #3 in D Major is a thrilling work. Mahler's great symphonies place him on a pedestal somewhere near Beethoven.

MIGUEL Faustmann and Joel Trinidad in "Power Plays", Rep's latest offering, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza


"KUMPISAL," Peta play

Major opera

The opera "Juan Luna" by Ryan Cayabyab and Fides Cuyugan-Asensio is undoubtedly a major addition to the Philippine opera repertoire. But why is the libretto in English, when librettist Asensio is fluent in Filipino? "Luna and his wife Paz did not speak in Tagalog," a friend points out (correct, they spoke in Spanish). But were they fluent in English?

February was a festive month, being National Arts Month. At the CCP, the celebrations were notable for the participation of cultural groups from the regions, including the Sining Kumintang ng Batangas, University of San Carlos Dance Company, Lahing Batangan Dance Troupe, Teatro Makabugwas of Calbayog City, Palawan Dance Theater, the Isabela National High School Jubiloso Choir, and the Ilocos Norte National High School Samiweng Singers.

The Pasig Summer Music Festival, now on its second year, proved again to be a showcase for our young talents who are now positioning themselves for the big time. These include pianist Najib Ismail and Lea Capulong, baritone Noel Ascona, tenor Nelson Caruncho, flutist GJ Herman Gomez, clarinetist Regina Lucena, and violinist Chino Gutierrez. The duets of outstanding soprano Rachelle Gerodias and Ascona were a hit with the audience.

THE WOMEN characters of "Rhythm Method (Kung Kailan Ka Pwede)" have different views of Dr. Ogino's women's ovulation. The play is a true-to-life dramatization of Dr. Ogino's "The Ogino Method".

Permanent address

My favorite drama group, the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), founded in 1967 by Cecile Guidote, will finally have a permanent address. Earlier this year, members ceremonially laid the cornerstone for what is envisioned to be a major performing arts complex; it is located in an Indian tree-laden lot on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Ballet Philippines again showed its flair for innovation with "Balikbayan; Stirring Journeys of the Filipino Soul," featuring the works of choreographers Alvin Erasga Tolentino, Kristin Jackson and Alden Lugnasin, stand-up comedian Rex Navarrete and Pinikpikan's Sammy Asuncion. And dancer-choreographer Enrico Labayen flew in from the US for a swan-song performance.

Lisa Macuja's Ballet Manila came up with a sparkling "Carmen," which was a tribute to the late choreographer Eric V. Cruz. The big Star Theater at the CCP Complex was filled to capacity, as is usually the case. I have always marveled at Ballet Manila's success in developing an audience for ballet, and feel part or most of the credit should go to my favorite "stage mother," Susan Pacheco Macuja, mother of ballerina Lisa and singer Gia Macuja, now making waves in London with a lead role in the hit musical "The Lion King."

Here are the outstanding plays (straight and musical) for the first six months of the year. I hasten to add that this is a partial, subjective list, based only on what I saw:

- "Rhythm Method" (Kung Kailan Ka/Pwede), Tanghalang Pilipino, directed by Herbert Go, translated by Rody Vera. Fresh young talents bring to life the story of how natural contraception was developed in Japan in 1924. Playwrights Iijima Sanae and Suzuki Yumi inject humor and humanity into a dry (no pun intended) medical subject, and create interesting characters.
- "Power Plays" by George F. Walker, Repertory Philippines, directed by Baby Barredo. These three one-act plays with four characters were Repertory's best offering for the first half of the year. The themes are power, manipulation, illusion and reality, and explosive human relationships.

Miguel Faustmann and Joel Trinidad were, as usual, excellent. But it is the women who went to town with their roles. Young signature actress Liesl Batucan once again proved her versatility, able to switch from sinister drama to uproarious comedy. And Joy Virata was a scream as the dental patient.

- "Konsiyertong Tatlong Kusing" (Three-Penny Opera) by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, CCP Special Concert Series, translated and adapted by Rody Vera and Jose Victor Torres. This was a chamber presentation, meaning there was no set to speak of, no extras and crowd scenes. The seven actor-singers took on all the roles and, disconcertingly, read from the script as they sang and emoted. The libretto in English (there was no need for this) was flashed on the screen by two stagehands in full view of the audience, and it was difficult to read in the semi-darkness.

Under the hands of director Chris Millado and lights designer Dennis Marasigan, however, the production managed to transcend these limitations and was actually delightful. Dialogue was racy and in-your-face, translator Vera being a peta-tsing.

The dependable Eugene Villaluz, with glasses and all, seemed too nice for the role of Mac Balisong. Comely Josephine Roces, now playing mother roles, showed she is also a good actress. Scene-stealing Michael Williams was the Narrator. Karla Gutierrez, one of our best singers, was winsome as Puri. The others who performed with brio were Agnes Barredo, Lionel Nestor Guico, and Lynn Sherman. Pianist May Anne Espina was warmly applauded.

- "DreamGirls," Atlantis Productions, directed by Bobby Garcia, with musical direction by Gerard Salonga. This is a showpiece of a musical, with its demands on performers who have to sing, dance and act well.. Bituin Escalante shone in her show-stopping number, as she pleaded for her lost love. Another explosive talent is Anna Fegi. High marks, too, go to the rest of the ensemble.
- Peta Trilogy: "St. Anthony Pray for Us." "Kumpisal" and "The Bomb!" with a slew of directors and playwrights. At the start, the audience was warned that the plays contained "sensitive material." Indeed, there was a lot of cursing, plus homosexual hi-jinks. But, overall, the plays were highly entertaining and thought-provoking. The acting was superb, although unrestrained at times.

Coming attractions

There are many other coming attractions for the rest of the year, including the return of pianist Cecile Licad on Aug. 16, Ballet Philippines' "Darna," Ballet Manila's "OPM at OPB" and "Swan Lake" in August-September; PPO's "A Rachmaninoff Night" in September and Repertory Children Theater's "Beauty and the Beast," with Liesl Batucan as Beauty and three actor-singers as Beast. This will run from August to December at Onstage, Greenbelt.

Witty script, rather than spectacle . . .

From page D1

and mom favored your siblings over you, or you weren't accepted in a certain clique."

To emphasize the innate humanity in the storyline, Arespacochaga has the production designs veering away from duck tail costumes, feline furs and flying feathers. But stage wizardry has to be employed for the hatching of the egg that brings Ugly into this world. "We will have animal silhouettes, but [the design is] very human. This is a very emotional, very driven story; it works best when you humanize the animal characteristics."

Musical director Brad Haak, who worked with the Singapore Repertory Theater's (SRT) "Honk" production a couple of years ago, immersed the Trumpets cast into the musical and introduced everyone to its nuances.

He has his theory on why "Honk!" beat another famous family-friendly animal musical allegory, "The Lion King", known for its razzle-dazzle imagery and eye-popping costumes, for the Olivier Best New Musical Award in 2000. "As amazing as 'Lion King' is, the Olivier awards recognized that 'Honk!' has developed a clever story, writing and character development, which are more important than the spectacle. This show doesn't rely on pyrotechnics and dazzling design."

Arespacochaga played several supporting roles, including Lowbutt the Hen, in the SRT production last year. Friend and fellow artist Gemora went to see her, and immediately saw the potentials the musical could have for a Philippine audience.

"Honk!" is the first major Trumpets musical that is not an adaptation or original material crafted by the company's playwrights. Previously, Jaime del Mundo and Luna Inocian reworked a C.S. Lewis novel and a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale for "Lion" and "Mermaid", respectively.

Gemora says that it's not a simple matter of bringing in a theatrical import for its own sake. "Just copy a [foreign production]? Forget it, it's not gonna happen. 'Honk!' has all the elements for a Trumpets musical: a mix of comedy and drama, a nice message and catchy tunes. It also had possibilities for the production designer and director. We also felt that we could make it more fun. There's an energy that only Pinoys have!"

"Honk!" will run at the Meralco Theater starting August 1. Call 633-5010, 636-[illegible]842.

'Honk' is no theatrical import just for its own sake

CARLA Martinez as Mother Duck Aida RUDY ESPERAS

Musicians pay tribute to two beloved teachers

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

RIZALINA "Tita Aling" Buenaventura (b. 1918) and Basilio "Sir Billy" Manalo (b. 1927), leading violinists and foremost teachers, were honored recently by their students on two separate occasions.

The tribute for Tita Aling was held at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall, while that for Sir Billy at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College. The two honorees were colleagues at the Manila Symphony Orchestra, reputedly the oldest in Asia. She was assistant concertmaster for 20 years while he served as concertmaster for 22 years.

As teachers, the two exacted nothing but the best from their students, who would later play in orchestras, conduct or teach.

As musicians, local critics raved about their artistry. Tita Aling was praised as an "artist of high caliber" and Sir Billy as a "solid virtuoso" of "extraordinary technical command and imagination."

The two professional musicians also had admiration for each other. Tita Aling, a homegrown artist, asked Sir Billy to share with her what he learned in violin playing at the Juilliard School of Music. Sir Billy generously obliged and, according to Tita Aling, became a younger brother to her.

She added that Sir Billy was the "favorite violinist" of her husband, National Artist for Music Antonino Buenaventura, who conducted Sir Billy twice as a violin soloist.

Sir Billy was asked to mentor Regina Buenaventura, Tita Aling's granddaughter, who has shown potential as a major violin talent.

Capable hands

Sir Billy never doubted Tita Aling's capability as a leader of the orchestra. He was at ease when she took over as concertmaster when he was not available.

The two musicians belong to a generation that put a premium on discipline and total commitment. Sir Billy traveled by public transportation from his hometown, Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija, to take lessons with the foremost violin pedagogue, Luis Valencia, at the St. Scholastica's College Music Department.

Emphatically, he said, "I was never late! Being punctual is the supreme attribute of a musician."

Della Besa, writing on Sir Billy for the souvenir program, said Maestro Valencia was sent to Vienna for further training by Sir Billy's grandfather, the late Don Felino Cajucom, so he could teach the grandson later.

Tita Aling, on the other hand, left her hometown, San Pablo in Laguna, for Manila when she was barely nine, studying first with Cayetano Jacobe, then with Ramon Tapales, and finally with the legendary virtuoso Ernesto Vallejo.

Jonathan Coo, who wrote the profile of Tita Aling, said she was the first Filipina violin virtuoso, if by virtuoso is meant a musician of exceptional or extraordinary talent.

As teachers, both honorees emphasized the virtues of discipline and commitment to achieve a successful artistic career. Happily, their serious students followed their advice.

Both musicians consider such virtues timeless, as important today as they were in the past. There could not be a future for an artist without them, as discipline and commitment were considered the keys to a performing artist's successful career.

BASILIO Manalo

PROF. Rizalina Buenaventura

Since the two had contributed substantially to enlivening the country's musical art scene, music-making was an important part of the tribute to the two artist-pedagogues.

Teacher's vital role

At the tribute for Tita Aling, Armando Baltazar, executive director of the MCO, underscored the vital role of the teacher in ensuring a continuing tradition of excellence in the musical arts that the honoree has done.

Musical renditions starting with Mozart's Divertimento No.1, so freshly interpreted by a composite of the Imperial-Noble-Molina families. Reginald Pineda etched with understated elegance Kreisler's "Liedesfreud," with Jonathan Coo at the piano. Ravel's Sonate Posthume 1897 was rendered by the husband-and-wife duo, Ariel and Gigi Gomez-Arambulo.

Some compositions of the late Maestro Buenaventura were played by quartets, like "Himig Nayon," performed by Arturo Molina, Dino Decena, Rosario-Molina Cruz and Victoria Molina-Chang; and the "Children's String Quartet," by Kimberly Tan, Ariel Arambulo, Jasmine Balbutin and Michael Buenaventura. "Buklod ng Pagmamahalan" was played by the Buenaventura trio, composed of Lourdes B. Salipsip, Tita Aling's daughter (piano); Regina (violin); and Michael Buenaventura (cello).

Regina showed élan in Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen."

At Sir Billy's tribute, Regina earned thunderous applause for her moving rendition of "Romance," the second movement of Wieniawski's Concerto No. 2 in D Minor, which she essayed in warm, full singing tones with arresting colors.

Bach's Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra in D Minor capped the concert with Professor Sergio Esmilla Jr., Tita Aling's colleague of long standing, conducting.

The tribute featured testimonials, musical performances and a video presentation showing highlights of the musical career of the honoree.

Sr. Josefina G. Nepomuceno, OSB, said in her welcome remarks that Sir Billy had bequeathed "the overabundance of the talents" he had produced over the years and had enriched the musical-cultural life of the country.

Trailblazer and missionary

The video presentation outlined the significant achievements of the honoree. A testimonial by Arturo Molina delved on the human side of the honoree, mentioning nocturnal "gulping" sessions their organization known as the "Full Moon Association" held.

Gina Medina said he was like a "father" while Benito F. Legarda called the honoree a "trailblazer." Oscar Yatco considered him an "exceptional teacher" and Jose Abejo said he was an indefatigable "missionary who spread the gospel of fine music appreciation."

Sr. Mary Placid, OSB, called him a "visionary." a Battig boy who joined his alma mater's avowed mission of fostering the best in musical education. Sir Billy and Sr. Placid put up the Philippine Research for the Development of Instrumental Soloists (Predis), many of whose trainees became winners in national competitions and participated in prestigious international festivals. They are now professional musicians, with some on scholarship grants abroad.

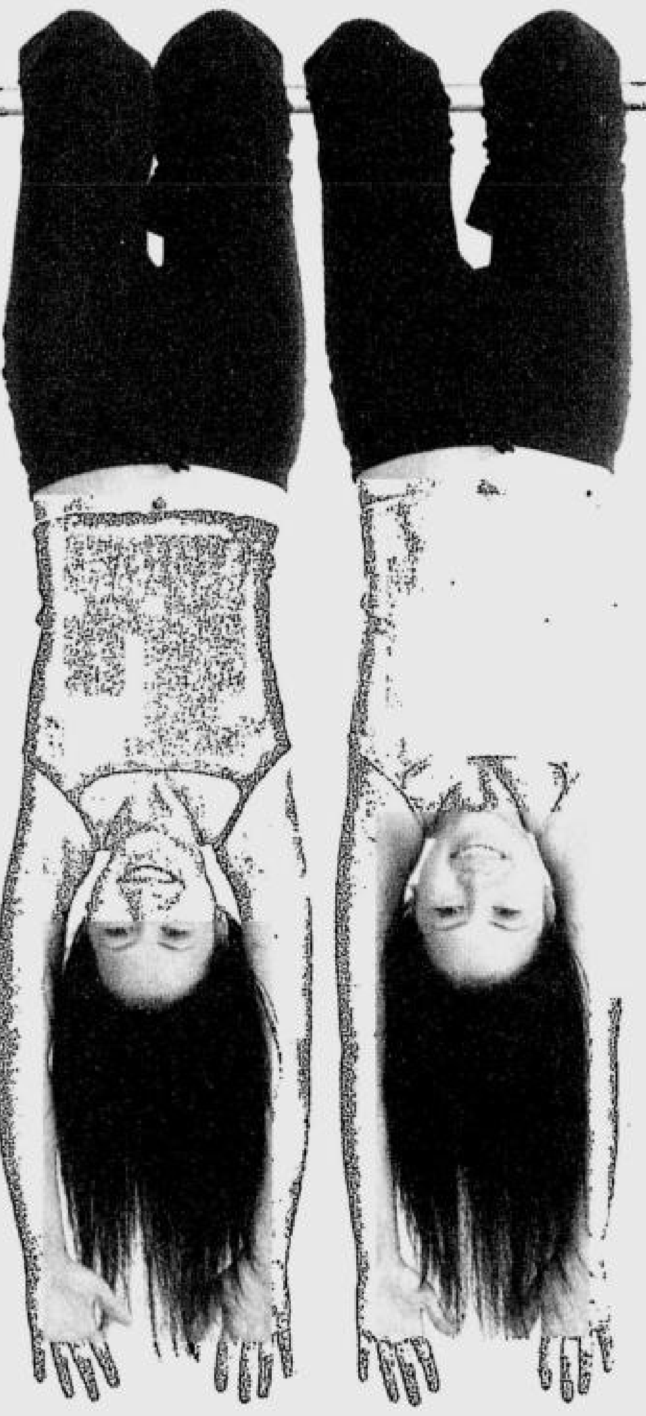
Predis soon gave birth to the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra, which led to the revival of the Manila Symphony Orchestra, otherwise known as MSO II.

Medina, Denise Santos Huang and Regina Buenaventura played Mendelssohn's Concerto in E Minor, third movement; Brahms' Concerto in D Major, Second Movement; and Wieniawski's Concerto No 2 in D Minor, Second Movement, respectively.

Other performers were the Predis Children's Orchestra and the Twinkle Group led by Mary Grace Martinez.

The Friends of Basilio Manalo Orchestra, composed of musicians from the Manila Symphony Orchestra II, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Arturo Molina, performed Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins and String Orchestra, with Santos Huang, Jareena Inacay, Ma. Socorro Cruz and Rachelle Alcances as soloists. Richard Strauss' "Don Juan" Overture capped the musical presentation.

At Tita Aling's tribute, her son Roberto gave the response, and for Sir Billy, it was his son Ino, who wrote the Palanca Award-winning "Listening to My Father."



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Remembering the Filipino Caruso

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

GOOD tenors are scarce in Philippine music. There may be many good pianists, violinists and even sopranos. But good tenors come few and far between.

The present batch of tenors are a vibrant and dynamic lot. Nolyn Cabahug shone in the Filipino version of "La Traviata" directed by Rolando Tinio in 1990. Gary del Rosario is making waves at the Cleveland Opera. Lemuel de la Cruz is active in opera, oratorio and recital engagements in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Ramon Acoymo is now the head of the UP voice department; he won the US Singing Teachers Competition and made an auspicious debut at the Lincoln Center.

Reaching their prime in the late '70s, the '80s and the early '90s was the triumvirate of Otoniel Gonzaga (prize-winner of a voice competition in Germany), Noel Velasco (prize-winner of the Pavarotti International Voice Competition in Philadelphia) and Frankie Aseniero.

In the '50s and the '60s, there were Don David and Aristeo Velasco, who sang with Pavarotti's teacher, Arrigo Pola, at the FEU Auditorium.

The '30s and the '40s were dominated by an all-Filipino opera company founded by the grand old man of opera in the Philippines, Don Juan Javier.

But one tenor stood out, Octavio Cruz from Pasig.

Cruz was born on July 11, 1902, and passed away on June 20, 1977.

It is an uncanny coincidence that tenor Cruz passed away on the same month that his frequent leading lady in the opera—Mercedes Matias Santiago—died. Santiago died last month.

The tenor was the son of Ramon Cruz and Guillerma Villareal. He seemed headed for a career in education at first.

In 1932, he graduated from the UP College of Education, but was discovered by Emilia Reysio-Cruz of the UP College of Music. He sang in the chorus of "Aida" with tenor José Barredo as Radames.

Great potential

Cruz's potential was so great he was launched as the lead tenor in "La Traviata" a year later. Like Santiago, Cruz was also taught by Victorino Carrion and given breaks by the opera impresarios of the time: Santiago-Font and Don Juan Javier.

OCTAVIO Cruz with wife Andrea Velasquez

When Cruz got the lead part in "Traviata" along with Nelia Manalo, it was announced in El Debate. Come opening night, he got good reviews from La Opinion and Sunday Tribune.

Reported the music critic, who also noticed the presence of senators and cabinet members and the crème de la crème of the music scene on opening night: "*Tambien brillaron en sus respectivos papeles al tenor Sr.* Octavio Cruz, *cuya voz ha mejorado mucho desde el ano pasado.*"

Cruz's opera conquest continued from the Manila Grand Opera House to the Metropolitan Theater, where he performed in "El Trovatore" (Manrico) opposite soprano Angela Asuncion de Agaton. He later performed "Cavalleria Rusticana" (Turrido) with the same soprano. He also did the title role in "Faust" with distinguished bass Mossessgeld Santiago-Font and Nelia Manalo, and "Aida" (Radames) again with Agaton.

There was no doubt that Cruz performed with the best of the crop. For one, the bass in "Faust," Mossessgeld Santiago-Font, was the first and the last Filipino to sing in the famous La Scala di Milan in the late '20s. Mercedes Matias Santiago, Cruz's frequent Violeta, was the first Filipina to sing Gilda ("Rigoletto") in Italy and one of the first to sing Lucia in the Philippines.

Cruz's conductors were also pioneers in classical music in the Philippines. They included violin pedagogue Bonifacio Abdon and composer Hilarion Rubio.

WHEN he graduated at UP 1932

When he made his triumphant performances in "Traviata," "Lucia di Lammermoor," "Trovatore," "Faust," "Aida" and "Cavalleria Rusticana," he was called, particularly by his townmates in Pasig, as the first Filipino Caruso.

The last of the great Filipino divas, Mercedes Matias Santiago, attested to his greatness. Before passing away, the maestra said: "Octavio Cruz was not just a good singer. He was a good person [whom] everybody got along with very well."

Cruz was lucky to live during the Golden Age of opera in the Philippines. But opera productions declined in the '60s. It has not revived despite the construction of better venues such as the Philamlife Theater, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the briefly revived Manila Metropolitan Theater.

Wrote writer Federico Licsi Espino of the grand era of opera: "The years from 1930 to 1943 constituted an auspicious era for opera in the Philippines. The era was marked by a fruitful musical season graced by the talents of operatic performers. It is unexcelled for polished performances and a vitality of singing style. There is nothing like it in the whole history of opera in the Philippines."

Singer and teacher

According to the family files, the tenor taught music and other subjects (English, Geometry, History) in between singing major roles in opera.

> Tenor Octavio Cruz was one of the dominant figures of the Golden Age of opera in the Philippines

But before acquiring a diploma in voice from the Escuela Confederada de Musica run by Victorino Carrion and Juan Javier, and finishing Education at UP, Cruz also acquired a diploma in banjo playing in a school named New York Academy of Music in Manila in 1927.

He was *pensionado* (scholar) at the UP College of Music, courtesy of the Manila Chamber Music Society, of which he was an outstanding member.

Octavio Cruz did not give up teaching.

He taught music and writing at San Juan Elementary School in 1936. He taught the same subjects in 1937 at the Las Piñas Elementary School, Fort McKinley Elementary in 1938, Rizal High School in 1940 (to 1954), Pasig Catholic School (History and Geometry), De La Salle College in 1954 and Torres High School (aside from music) in 1955.

He taught rondalla at the high school departments of the Philippine Women's University and the Manila Central University from 1958 to 1961.

Cruz established and trained high school bands; he also directed and coached productions of operettas.

Cruz directed "The Princess of Copyland" (1949) and "The Princess of Mohammed" at Rizal High School. At Torres High School, he mounted and directed "Forest Prince" (1955), "Princess of Copyland" (1956) and, "The Bat" (1958).

Shortly after the war, he also taught music in Arellano University in Pasig, the Pasig Catholic College, and the Sta. Isabel College Conservatory of Music.

In due time, he became an active member of the Philippine National Society on Music Education, the National Music Council of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Composers and Publishers (yes, he turned to composing after his opera years were over).

Before he discovered music, Cruz was a sprinter (100-meter dash) at the Rizal High School. When he taught at the school, it was likely that he became coach of the school's track and field team.

To radio listeners of DZRM from 1933 to 1961, Octavio Cruz was among the regular guest singers who regaled music lovers on the famous "Elizalde Hour."

Married to Andrea Velasquez also of Pasig, Cruz had six children—five sons and a daughter. The eldest is stockbroker Rodolfo Cruz.

One son is Antonio Cruz, an electrical engineer who sang and played percussion in rock bands (Atoms, Human Beings). Another is bar topnotcher Avelino Cruz, who founded the Accra law of office in Makati City.

The rest of the children are Eduardo, Remedios and Octavio Jr.

Thus far, none in the Cruz clan has a clue as to where Octavio Cruz got his musical genes. "That's what we are trying to find out," said Avelino Cruz, who took up piano and became his father's accompanist. "To this day, we continue to wonder where he got it. Maybe I'll have an idea if we talk to our living uncles and aunts."

Rodolfo knew that his father was a musician because their Pasig house in Caniogan was the setting of countless musical soirées attended by Nelia Manalo (his baptismal godmother), Lucio San Pedro, and yes, the bass Mossesgeld Santiago-Font and many others. This was shortly after the war.

But the event Rodolfo had always looked forward to was taking the tranvia in Pasig to attend the High Mass in Quiapo Church where his father and other famous musicians often sang. It was a cultural event of some sort. Manalo would be there, as well as Matias Santiago and Santiago-Font. And then they'd have lunch at Panciteria Wa Nam.

To be concluded

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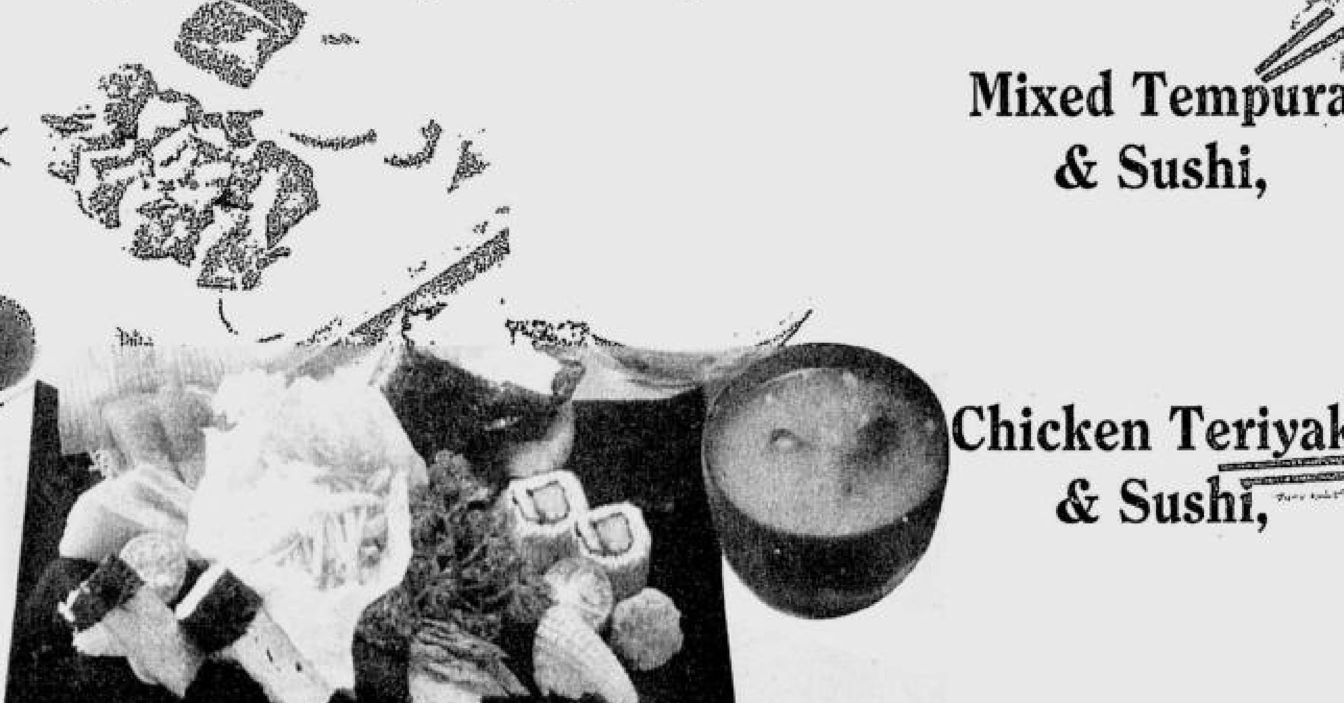
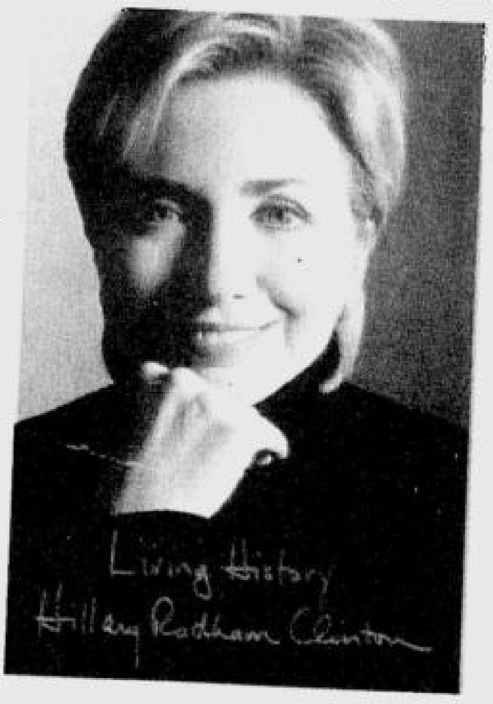


'History' according to Hillary



The personal anecdotes make the former First Lady's memoir enjoyable, but the book clearly pulls its punches

Living History
By Hillary Rodham Clinton
(Simon & Schuster, New York, 2003, 528 pages)

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES by famous and important people often fall into two categories: self-indulgent, overly feel-good tomes or truly revelatory, poignant memoirs.

Former First Lady and incumbent New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton falls squarely in between, by design.

"This is not meant to be a comprehensive history, but a personal memoir that offers an inside look at an extraordinary time in my life and in the life of America," she explains in the introduction to "Living History."

Readers can take note of the fact that "History" is actually Hillary's fourth book and that she's written for the mainstream press while in the White House. Hillary thus knows her way around a paragraph.

If anything, "History" is a surprisingly accessible read, even enjoyable, but not for the expected reasons. It is, after all, the tale of how a smart girl from relatively humble origins becomes First Lady and senator.

With the Monica Lewinsky affair and the Whitewater case, Hillary has been a lightning rod for controversy on 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Yet "History" either glosses over the event (Lewinsky), or simply exhaustively explains her side of it (Whitewater).

Political bios are expected to be partisan, but it is bracing to see just how partisan and ultimately safe "History" turns out to be.

The other surprising factor is how Hillary actually proves to be an enjoyable writer, especially when she's writing about something without caution.

The best part of "History" is the earlier portion, detailing her childhood years and the struggle of her parents to give the Rodham children a good life. Readers will see how difficult Hillary's early circumstances were and how having good parents helped her overcome those same circumstances.

Be warned, though. Hillary has a penchant for cornball, heartwarming sayings, and these occur all throughout the book.

It's fascinating to see how much of a goody-goody and an overachiever Hillary was as a child. "History" makes vivid reading throughout her days of youth, and the parts where she awakens to activism and idealism are also powerful.

Did you know, for example, that she used to be a Republican?

Cramming

One would think that politics would make "History" fascinating, but it actually weighs the book down. Though Hillary can issue barbs such as "sliming fish was pretty good preparation for life in Washington," the moment she gets involved in politics, the book feels like it's cramming, trying to get as much of the good stuff in as possible.

From Bill Clinton's first days as Arkansas governor through the two presidential terms, "History" just chronicles state visits and lists names and events one after the other until they begin to blur.

Which is not to say all the visits were unremarkable. The visits to Nelson Mandela and South Africa were notable, and Hillary does talk about how, during visits to Manila, she talked to Cory Aquino and described how Ming Ramos acted as her tour guide at Malacañang. There's just so much of it.

Hillary does provide a brutally honest, if somewhat colored, view of how American politics work. That she is a lawyer explains how she can explain the nitty-gritty of legislation without tuning out, turning the better parts of the book's tales from the Hill, such as the ultimately futile struggle to get the Clinton health reform package enacted, into John Grisham—the legislative version.

But Hillary's best moments in the book are her personal ones, where she can speak freely about being a mother to Chelsea, a child of her parents, a friend to her friends, and, of course, wife to Bill.

In those moments, she is a fiercely independent woman with a clear, distinctive voice, such as when she talks about her decision to change her name from Hillary Rodham to Hillary Rodham Clinton: "I decided it was more important for Bill to be governor again than for me to keep my maiden name. So when Bill announced his run for another term on Chelsea's second birthday, I began calling myself Hillary Rodham Clinton."

She becomes painfully spare with her words when recounting the entire Lewinsky scandal, obviously holding back: "I couldn't believe he would do anything to endanger our marriage and our family. I was dumbfounded, heartbroken and outraged that I'd believed him at all."

This is disappointing, considering how voluble and determined she was in speaking out against the agenda of House Republicans and the shadowy Arkansas Project, a plot cooked up ostensibly to bring Bill down. It's her book, and she's a Democrat with an axe to grind.

Portrait of a marriage

But "History" is in many ways a portrait of a marriage, and it appears, whether to your taste or not, to be a charmed one.

Whether she intended to or not, Hillary remains clearly a woman smitten with Bill, and there are pages that go on and on about it.

Example: "One of the first things I noticed about Bill was the shape of his hands. His wrists are narrow and his fingers tapered and deft, like those of a pianist or a surgeon. Now his hands are showing signs of age after thousands of handshakes and golf swings and miles of signatures. They are, like their owner, weathered but still expressive, attractive and resilient."

"History" ends rather abruptly with

'HISTORY'/E4

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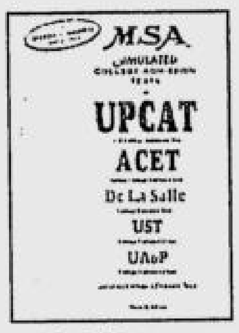

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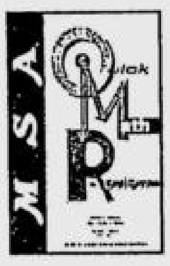

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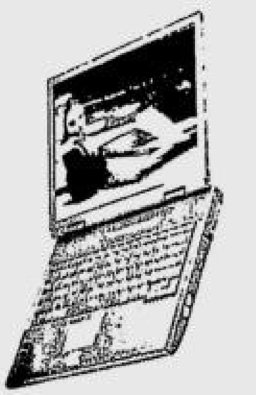

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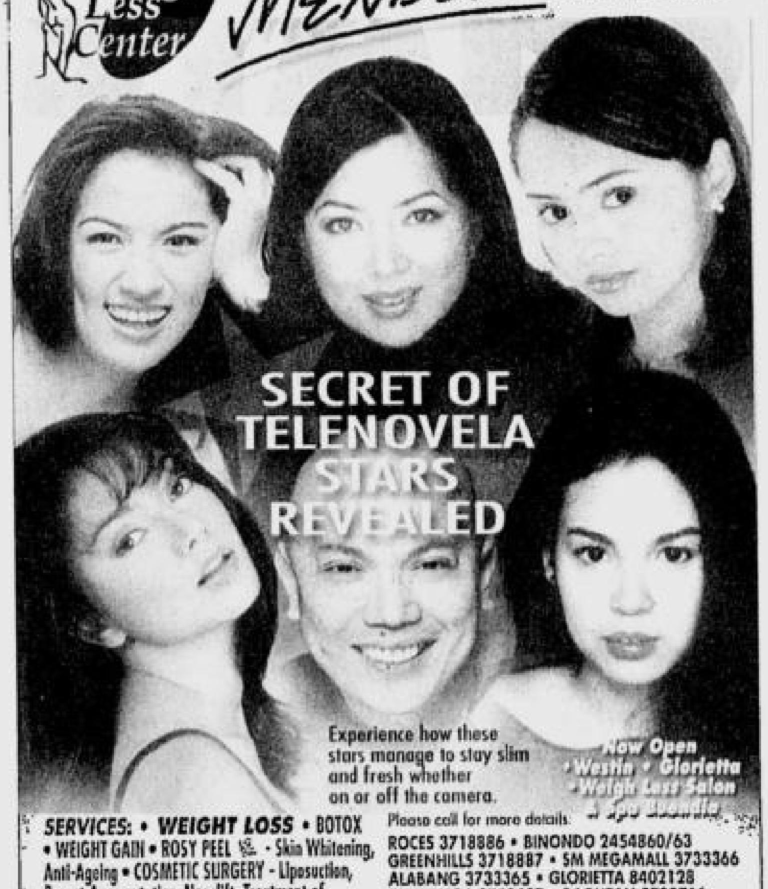
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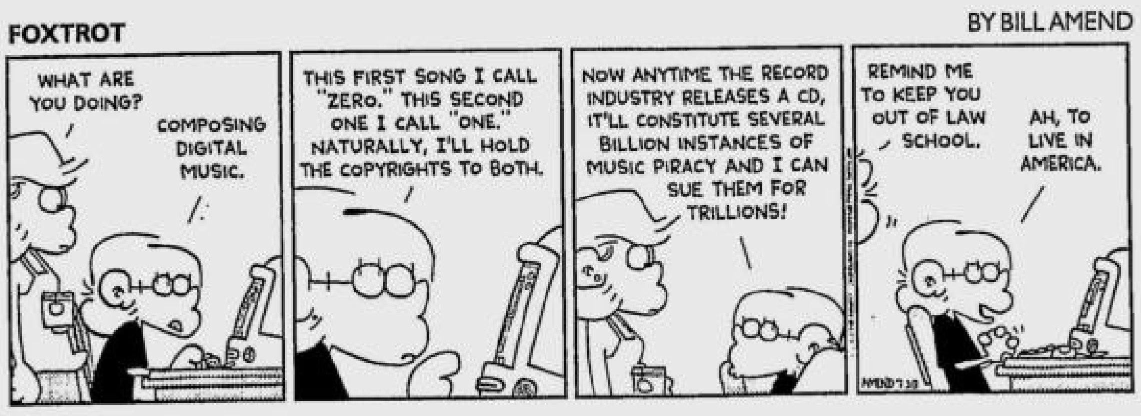
BY BILL AMEND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THIS FIRST SONG I CALL "ZERO." THIS SECOND ONE I CALL "ONE." NATURALLY, I'LL HOLD THE COPYRIGHTS TO BOTH.
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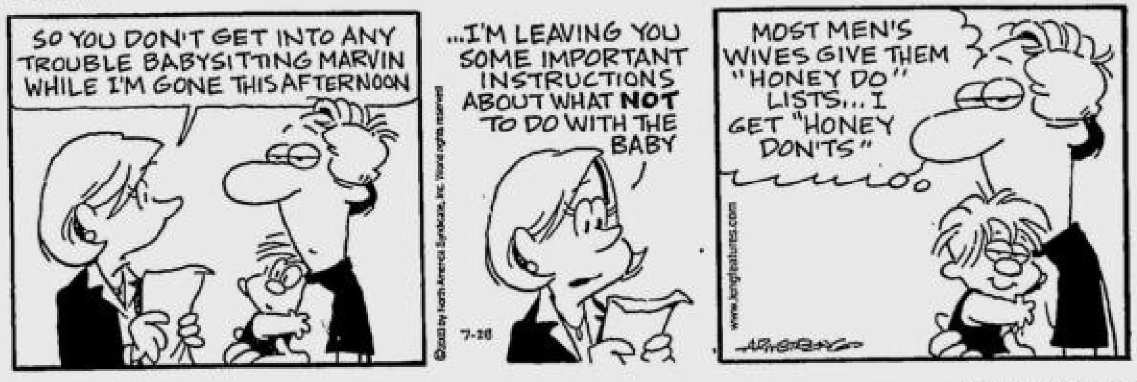
REMIND ME TO KEEP YOU OUT OF LAW SCHOOL.
AH, TO LIVE IN AMERICA.
AMEND 7-28

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SO YOU DON'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE BABYSITTING MARVIN WHILE I'M GONE THIS AFTERNOON
...I'M LEAVING YOU SOME IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WHAT NOT TO DO WITH THE BABY
MOST MEN'S WIVES GIVE THEM "HONEY DO" LISTS... I GET "HONEY DON'TS"
7-28
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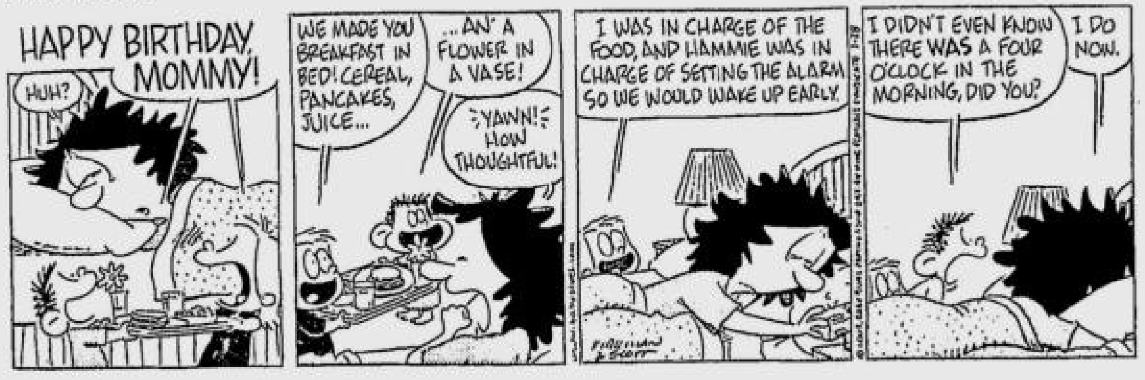
ARMSTRONG

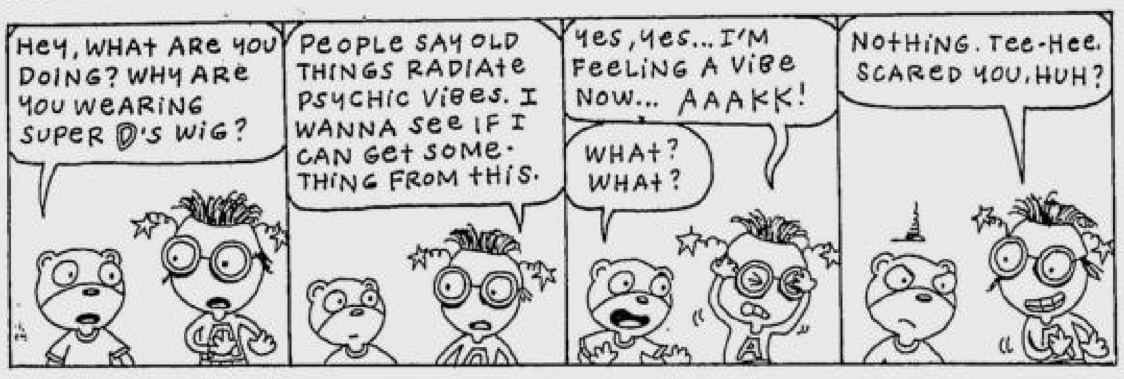
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOMMY!
HUH?
WE MADE YOU BREAKFAST IN BED! CEREAL, PANCAKES, JUICE...
...AN' A FLOWER IN A VASE!
YAWN! HOW THOUGHTFUL!
I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FOOD, AND HAMMIE WAS IN CHARGE OF SETTING THE ALARM SO WE WOULD WAKE UP EARLY.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, DID YOU?
I DO NOW.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU WEARING SUPER D'S WIG?
PEOPLE SAY OLD THINGS RADIATE PSYCHIC VIBES. I WANNA SEE IF I CAN GET SOMETHING FROM THIS.
YES, YES... I'M FEELING A VIBE NOW... AAAKK!
WHAT? WHAT?
NOTHING. TEE-HEE. SCARED YOU, HUH?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural flair and style that others admire. In part, this is because you appreciate beauty. You know what you want in life, and you intend to get it. You admire education and learning. You also value your privacy. Work hard this year, because your payoff will be evident in 2004.
Birthdate of: Jim Davis, cartoonist; Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, editor/former first lady; Beatrix Potter, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You are highly creative. You can do anything with your hands. Today's New Moon is the perfect time to decide how to express your creative talents.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): What can you do to improve your family dynamic or where you live? Think about this. You like to have a nice home that gives you a feeling of security.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Think about how you can improve your communications with others. You are skilled with words and languages. However, do you truly listen to people? Think about it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good time to decide how to organize your life better through the things that you own. Get rid of what you don't need; take care of what you want.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today is the only New Moon in your sign all year. Ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance and your style of relating to others. Then do it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): No matter what your religious beliefs, you do believe in something. Define your value system, at least to yourself, so that you know where you stand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Take a look around you, and ask yourself if you are the kind of person you would want for a friend. How can you be a better friend to others?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Give some thought to your life direction today. Where do you want to be 10 years from now? Five years? What do you have to do this year to move in that direction?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your hopes about higher education or travel to other countries can become very real. Make a commitment to what you want to do. That's the only way it will happen.

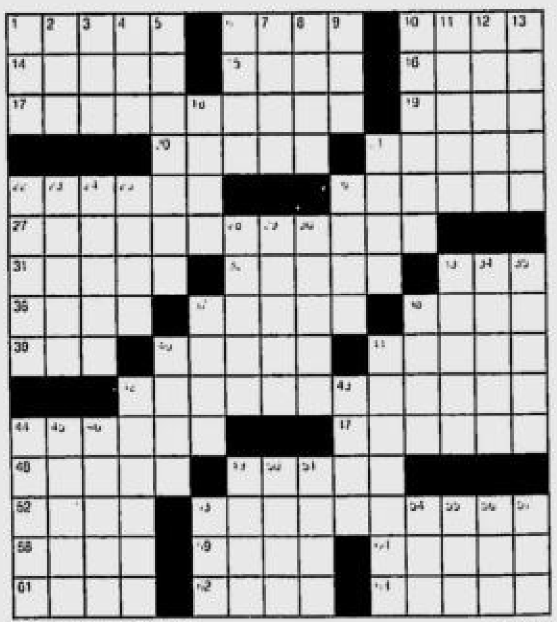
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have worked hard in the past few years. Now it's time for you to take a bow. Think about what you want to share with others—and what you don't want to share.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Close partnerships matter a lot to you now. This year all partnerships will improve. Singles can find new, committed love.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Without question, your job improves enormously this year! Today's New Moon challenges you to think about ways of making this happen.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Chocolate substitute
6 Wrongful act
10 Stage layouts
14 Island off Venezuela
15 Melville novel
16 Bog down
17 Thorough race coverage
19 Notion
20 Savory
21 Fabric fold
22 Kitchen appliances
26 Warns
27 Thorough reading
31 Peaceful relations
32 Insipid
33 Letters on cameras
36 Carson's successor
37 Quamash
38 Potpourri
39 Dotted cube
40 Alma __
41 Teheran man
42 Thorough convention coverage
44 Ritzy residence
47 Except if
48 Vacuous
49 Jaded
52 Lady's man
53 Thorough canvass
58 Advantage
59 Composer Khachaturian
60 Form a bond
61 Clairvoyant
62 Contradict
63 Like sailor's stories



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
7/28/03

DOWN
1 Crow's call
2 "Exodus" hero
3 Capek sci-fi play
4 Recognition from Eliz.
5 Assault and __
6 AAA services
7 Leave off
8 Actor Calhoun
9 Shoe part
10 Grinner
11 Soft down
12 Buy a round
13 Places at the table
18 Kiln
21 Appealed
22 Burn with hot liquid
23 "My Cousin Vinny" co-star
24 Of sheep
25 Nix by Nixon
26 Rara follower
28 Shaped like Humpty Dumpty
29 Ship of the desert
30 Illusory-painting movement
33 Drudge
34 Drama dialogue
35 Muddies
37 Spelunker's spot
38 By mouth
40 Old-time club
41 Pyrogenic
42 Goose's mate
43 Give the boot
44 Heaps
45 Cathode's counterpart
46 Colossal
49 Tiresome one
50 Bank business
51 Military force
53 June celebrant
54 Genetic fingerprints
55 Texas tea
56 Mel of baseball Giants
57 Actor Alejandro

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	W	I	V	E	L	S	■	A	F	F	A	I	R	S
P	A	R	A	P	E	T	■	D	R	A	G	N	E	T
A	D	E	L	I	N	A	■	D	E	C	A	T	U	R
■	■	■	■	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	E	S	E
P	L	O	P	■	■	P	U	P	■	■	■	N	E	W
R	E	V	E	A	L	E	R	■	T	E	N	T	■	■
E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E	■	B	L	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	S	E	U	S	■	T	I	E	D	O	W	N
S	E	W	I	N	G	■	S	A	L	M	I	N	E	O
■	■	H	A	S	H	■	A	L	L	I	N	A	L	L
S	H	E	■	■	■	E	L	M	■	■	E	I	L	A
C	O	L	L	A	R	S	T	U	D	S	■	■	■	■
O	R	M	O	L	U	S	■	D	I	E	A	W	A	Y
O	N	E	L	A	N	E	■	I	N	A	R	A	G	E
P	E	D	A	N	T	S	■	C	O	M	E	N	O	W

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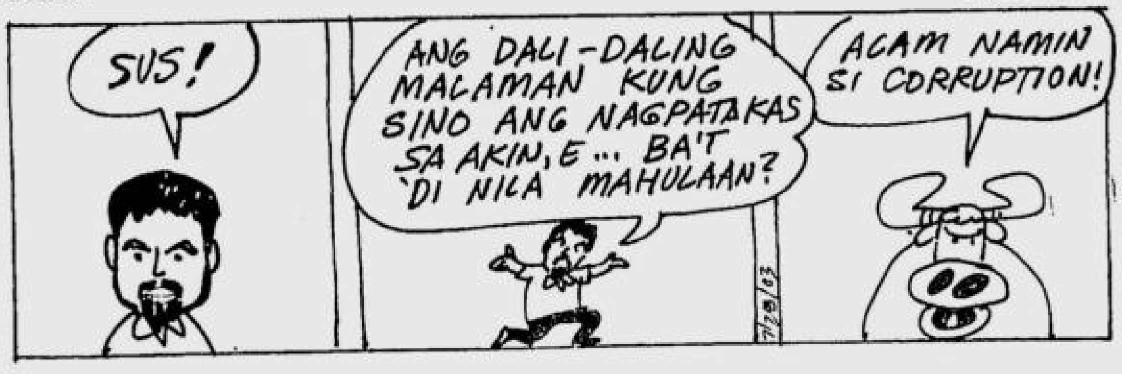
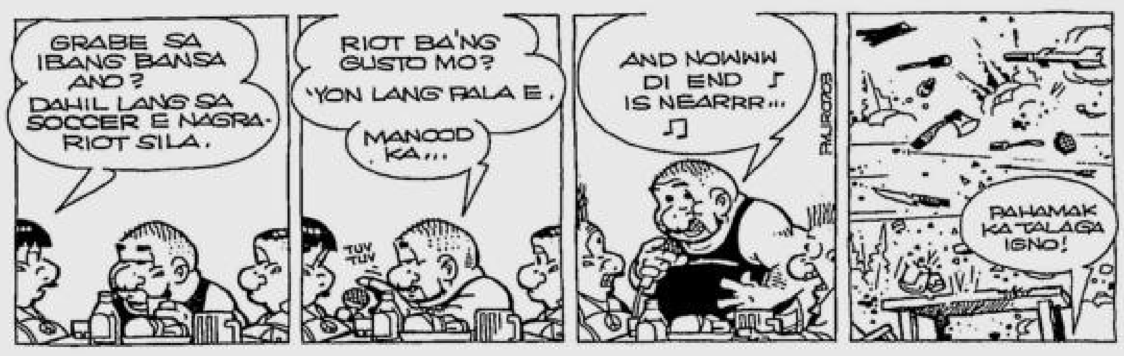
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SUS!
ANG DALI-DALING MALAMAN KUNG SINO ANG NAGPATAKAS SA AKIN, E... BA'T 'DI NILA MAHULAAN?
ACAM NAMIN SI CORRUPTION!
7/28/03

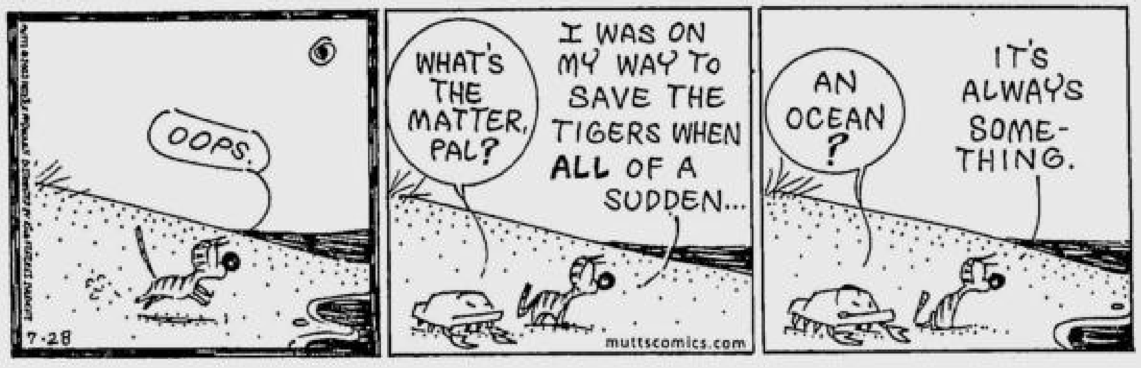
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GRABE SA IBANG BANSA ANO? DAHIL LANG SA SOCCER E NAGRA-RIOT SILA.
RIOT BA'NG GUSTO MO? 'YON LANG PALA E.
MANOOD KA...
TUY TUY
AND NOWWW DI END IS NEARRR...
PMJR
PAHAMAK KA TALAGA IGNO!

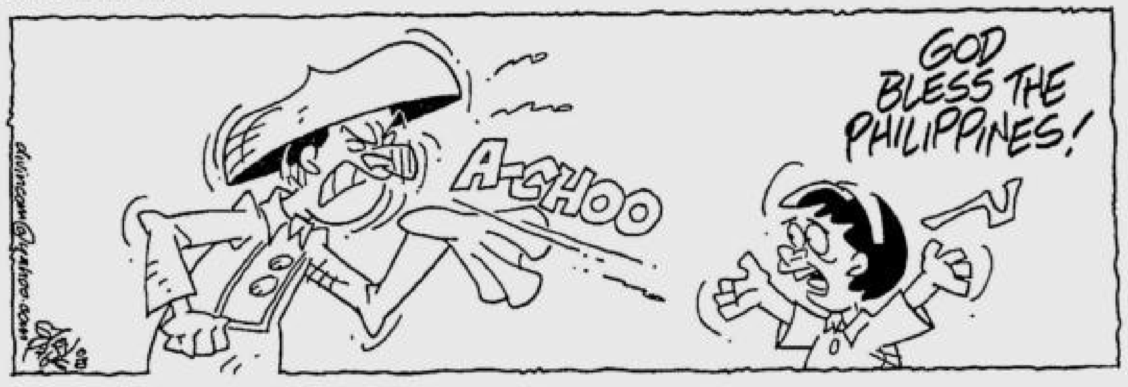
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOPS.
7-28
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PAL?
I WAS ON MY WAY TO SAVE THE TIGERS WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
muttscomics.com
AN OCEAN?
IT'S ALWAYS SOME-THING.

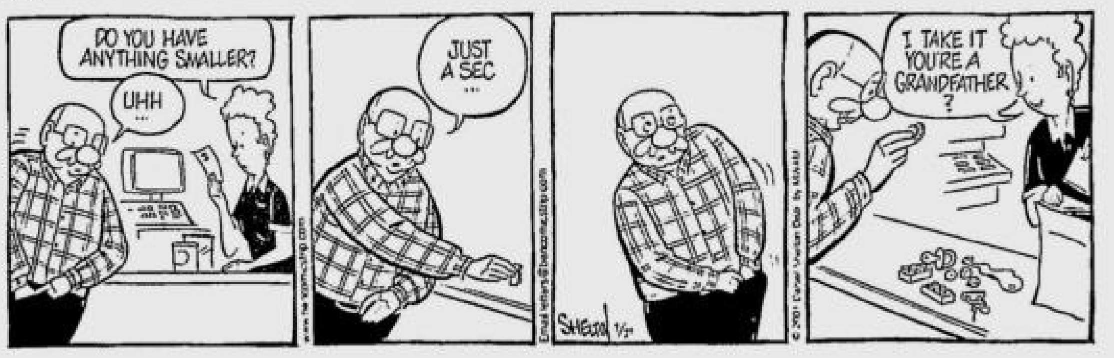
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


A-CHOO
GOD BLESS THE PHILIPPINES!

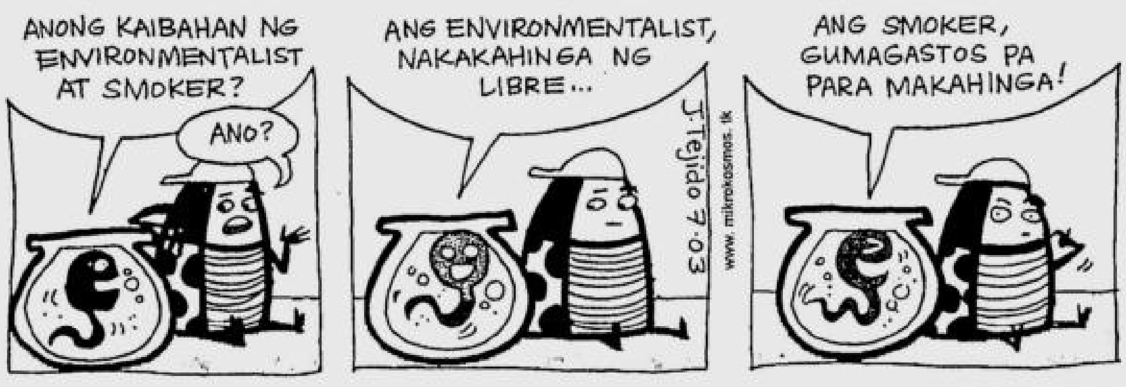
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING SMALLER?
UHH ...
JUST A SEC ...
SHELTON
I TAKE IT YOU'RE A GRANDFATHER?

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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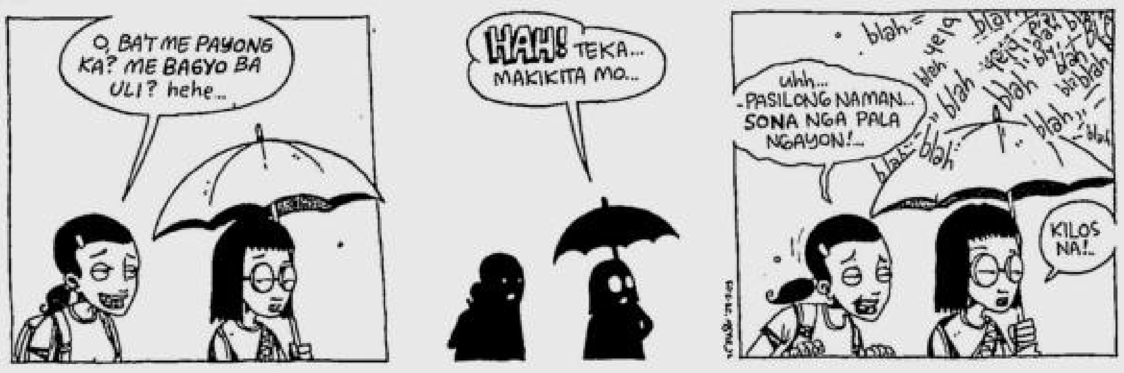
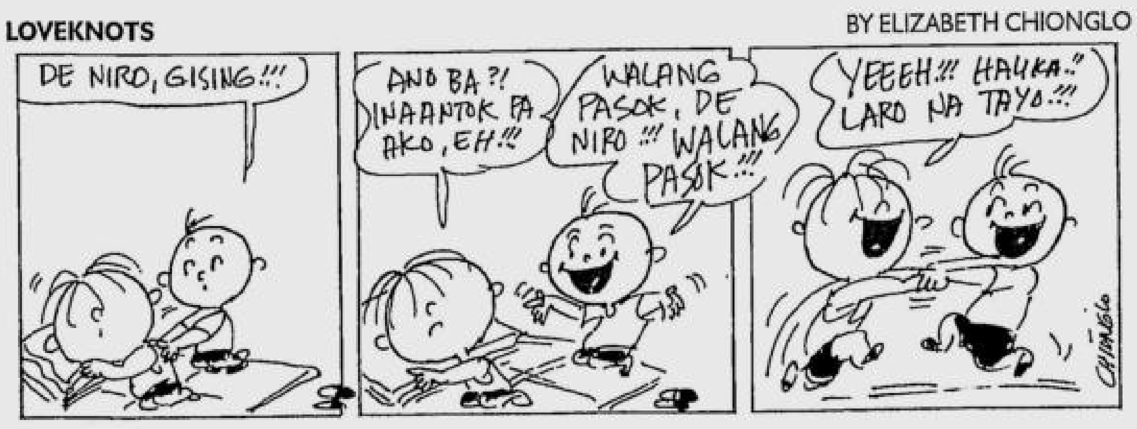
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, BA'T ME PAYONG KA? ME BAGYO BA ULI? hehe..
HAH! TEKA... MAKIKITA MO...
uhh... PASILONG NAMAN... SONA NGA PALA NGAYON!...
blah blah blah
KILOS NA!..

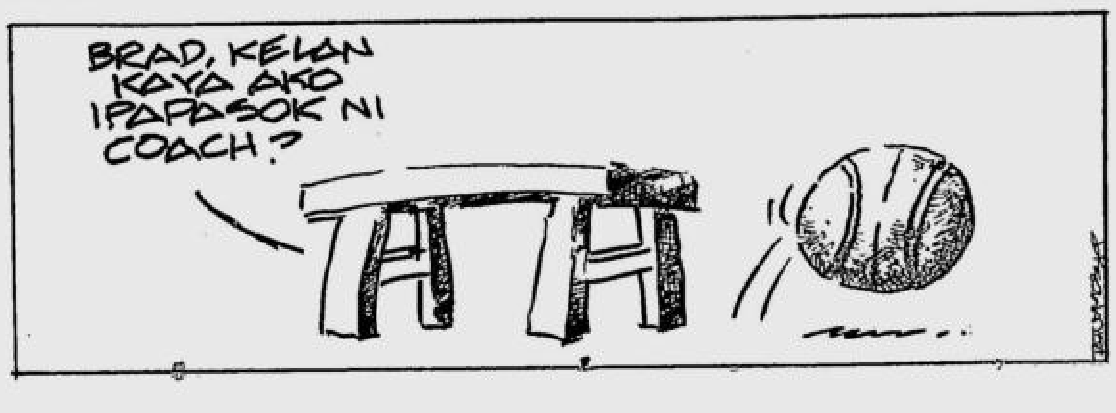
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, GISING!!!
ANO BA?! INAANTOK PA AKO, EH!!!
WALANG PASOK, DE NIRO!!! WALANG PASOK!!!
YEEEH!!! HAYKA..! LARO NA TAYO..!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BRAD, KELAN KAYA AKO IPAPASOK NI COACH?

Book fair shows widening literacy

WHY ARE many literacy campaigns being mounted?

Karina Bolasco, assistant general manager and publishing manager of Anvil Publishing, Inc., said reading advocacy campaigns have actually been around for years.

"They've just been quiet. Now, they're getting more media-savvy. They're able to connect with newspapers, magazines and TV. You have to realize that, for people to join you, you have to make them aware that there's such a campaign going on. And by making people aware, you also let them know that it's important to do this, you let them see the value of books and reading," Bolasco said.

While the main objective of the campaigns is to get more people to read, Bolasco added another purpose: To change the way people see books.

"The tradition of books here is that they are functional: they always have to do something, to educate, to expand your knowledge," Bolasco said. "So the attitude of an audience to a book is, they get intimidated. And that spoils the fun; it doesn't do the book justice. You actually get hooked on books when you enjoy reading."

Readers' needs

Several factors come into play when mounting a campaign to encourage people to read. Lirio Sandoval, president of the Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) and A-Z Direct Marketing, said that the readers' needs ought to be considered. They have to know that the books are available.

Sandoval said publishers must promote the books. "Be more aggressive," he said. "Go to your readers, perhaps engage in direct marketing, direct selling."

A second factor to consider is children's exposure to books. Most children first encounter books when they enter school. When a child is obligated to do something, like reading a textbook, she sees it as homework rather than as something fun.

Ani Almario, product development officer of Adarna House, said that a child should learn to love books at home, even before she enters school.

"The most effective way to promote reading is reading by example," Almario said. "When kids see their parents reading, when there are a lot of reading materials at home and parents make the effort to pick them up and read them, then kids take to reading naturally."

It has been noted that the market for children's books is growing. Almario attributed this to parents' growing awareness of their children's need to read.

"At the early stages of a child's development, parents and teachers exert more effort to promote reading to kids. When parents and teachers show a genuine love of reading, then the kids will follow suit—'*Ay, gusto ko ring magbasa.*'"

> The forthcoming Manila International Book Fair shows how local publishers have become more aggressive in building a new generation of readers

BEZALIE Uc-Kung, executive director of New Day Publishers, actively promotes reading, especially among children.

Young readers

Bezalie Uc-Kung, executive director of New Day Publishers, said, "Kids develop a love of reading as they grow up. As long as young people are reading—even if it's just comic books—that's already an advantage. Later on, they would be able to graduate to more serious books."

KARINA Bolasco, publishing manager of Anvil Publishing, says people's low regard of books must change.

A third factor is the quality of reading material on the market. Over the years, locally published books have improved in terms of book material, art and content. Bolasco and Almario said that the works of Filipino writers are of international caliber. Uc-Kung said that Filipinos are among the best illustrators of children's books.

"It is our responsibility to help improve the quality and standards of writing," said Uc-Kung. "As a local publisher, we focus [on] and develop the Filipiniana thrust—history, literature, culture."

Another factor to consider is the availability of books. While there are bookstores all over Metro Manila and other big cities, the same is not true of other places, especially in the provinces.

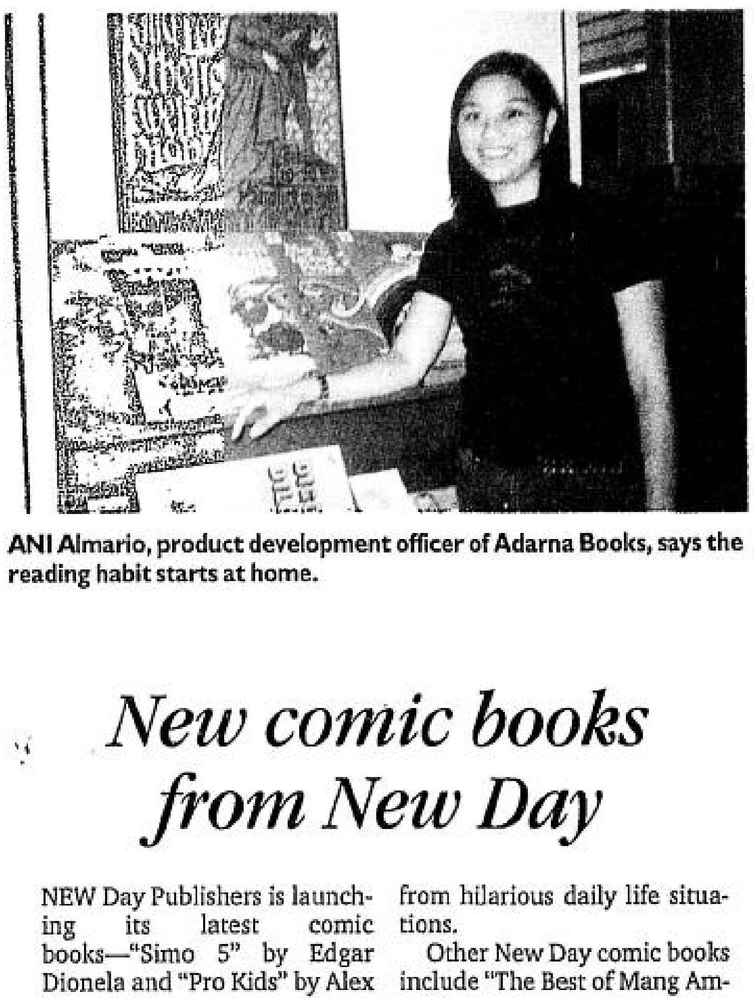
At the 24th Manila International Book Fair, local and foreign publishers will gather to exhibit their titles, and the BDAP will conduct seminars on editing, publishing and marketing books.

"There's a lot more support for books now," Bolasco said. "For example, newspapers have devoted their Monday issues to book features, and TV shows are open to guesting authors. It helps a lot for authors to be visible and to talk about books."

Anvil, Adarna and New Day will exhibit new titles, as well as new versions of their popular books.

The 24th Manila International Book Fair is slated on Aug. 30 to Sept. 7 at the Megatrade Hall, 5/L, Building B, SM Megamall. It is organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc. in partnership with the Book Development Association of the Philippines, Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines, Association of Philippine Book Sellers, and Asian Catholic Publishers Inc. Call 896-0682 or 897-0139, or visit http://www.primetradeasia.com.

LIRIO Sandoval, president of the Book Development Association of the Philippines, says readers' needs must be considered.



ANI Almario, product development officer of Adarna Books, says the reading habit starts at home.

New comic books from New Day

NEW Day Publishers is launching its latest comic books—"Simo 5" by Edgar Dionela and "Pro Kids" by Alex Young.

"Pro Kids" was first serialized in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, while "Simo," which is now on its fifth series, continues to grace the comics page of the same paper.

Readers, young and old alike, will find the works not only funny but insightful. The works bring out simple lessons from hilarious daily life situations.

Other New Day comic books include "The Best of Mang Ambo" by the late great cartoonist Larry Alcala, the "Pugad Baboy" series of Pol Medina Jr., "The Best of Pupung" by Tonton Young and "The Chaka Chronicles" by Bobbi Jolbitado.

The books are available at leading book stores nationwide. Call New Day at 928-8046 and 927-5982.

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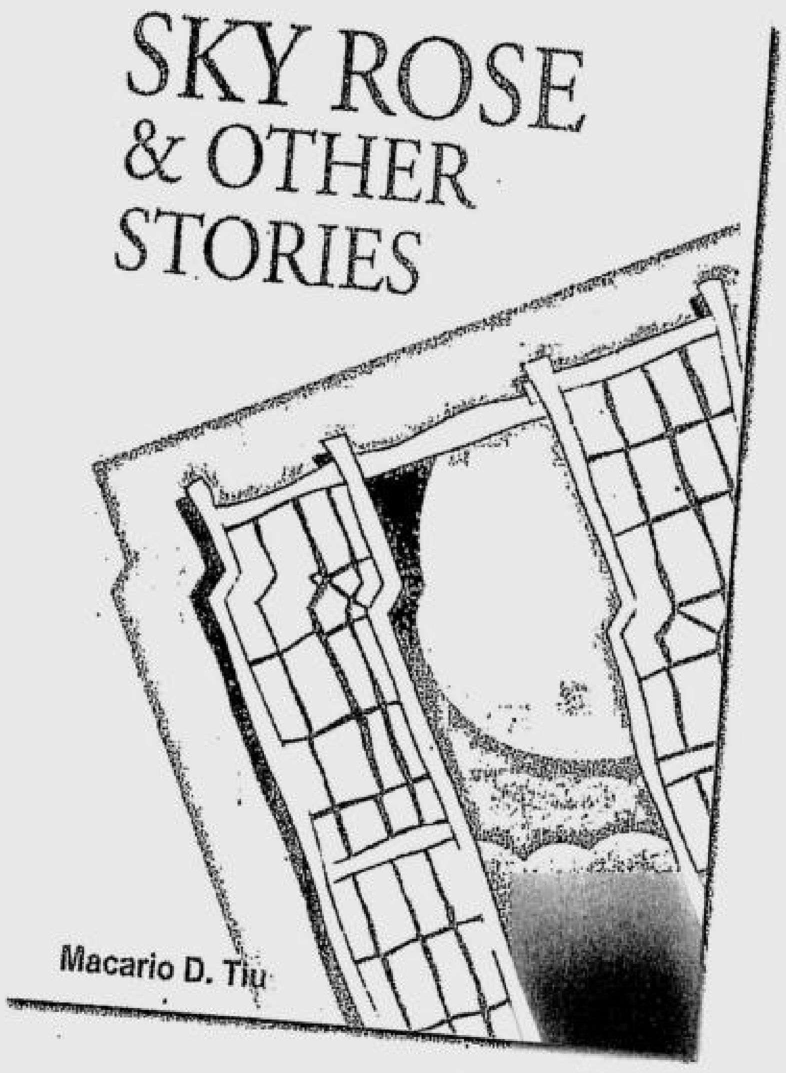
New exciting voice from Mindanao

Macario Tiu's short fiction powerfully dramatizes everyday, ordinary lives



Sky Rose & Other Stories
By Macario D. Tiu
Davao Writers Guild, 2003, 80 pp

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

REVIEW

DROPPING temporarily Sheri Reynolds's novel "The Rapture of Canaan" in favor of Macario "Mac" D. Tiu's collection of short stories was the reality check I needed from the imagined threat of being rained on by church fire and brimstone as I lay in bed recovering from flu.

"Sky Rose & Other Stories" is a slim volume of seven stories written over a period of 30 years. Published by the Davao Writers Guild as part of its Tubao Book Series, it is a welcome addition to the contemporary literatures of Mindanao.

As a first-rate storyteller in the mold of Leoncio Deriada and Charlson Ong, Mac keeps us turning the pages to see what happens next. He has a breezy language style meant for all Filipinos who understand English.

Mac's stories are about courageous people who try their best to make something out of their ordinary lives.

Linda in "Nanking Store" is one of the most powerful characters in the collection. She surprises the reader when she stands up to her abusive Chinese mother-in-law.

In this tight story, the reader gets a glimpse of Davao's world of Chinese merchants and their biases against Bisayans; and of wives, like Linda, whose burden is to bear sons for their husbands. In the end, the reader celebrates with Linda her femininity and the new man in her life.

Macho women

Mac portrays other strong women characters—Elisa in "Figurine" and Cynthia in "Cynthia." They all have one thing in common: something is empty in their lives. Elisa toys with the idea of having an affair with Dante who is in love with her, and Cynthia has sex with Gerry who doesn't love her.

Both portraits are a male author's interpretation of how two equally determined women of differing backgrounds work out their problems in spite of mores that make them toe the macho line in Philippine society.

It is clear that Mac, with his gift for dialogue (he's also a playwright), explores sex and sexuality with a frankness and a freshness that is in keeping with his liberal humanist education minus the bourgeois morality that goes with it.

On the other hand, there is a folksy lyricism to the difficult-to-handle story "I Am One of the Mountain People." The details prepare us for the path that the character is going to take, torn as he is between his people's ways and learning the "Christian magic" in a Christian school in Santa Barbara.

This story should be a blueprint for young writers tackling themes about self-determination among our *lumad* brothers who face the consequences of Christian landgrabbing. It is also here that Filipinos could understand why Mindanaoans are particular in identifying Mindanao's tri-people community— the "Christian," "Moro" and "Lumad"— when conversing among themselves.

Tour de force

Another story, this time in Cebuano, "Ang Bata Nga Dili Matulog," published with a translation in English, is a tour de force. The child in the story gives Tinang, the main character, the courage to fight her fear of drunks.

It is an entertaining story told in idiomatic, Davao Cebuano, never mind the number of characters that makes one double back to reread which characters are conversing now or who is getting drunk next.

Finally, the longest story in the collection, "Sky Rose", is about the psychology of rebels fighting the government. The reader gets a crash course on Rebellion 101 where terms like "communication drop house," "informer" and "revolution" stream out of the pen as easily as the self-contradictions and the unpredictability of young lives preparing to kill or be killed for "the cause."

"Sky Rose" showcases Mac's strength as fictionist—his dramatic flair and his realistic descriptions of Davao's hinterlands, including the least significant details.

In spite of a minor technical error in the sampler below (secondary-growth trees appear only after the mature trees are cut), the passage from "Sky Rose" is typical of Mac's dramatic and descriptive powers:

"He [Rolly] sat on the edge of a low cliff, swinging his feet carelessly. He drank deep of the scene, his eyes scanning ever slowly, observing. A brook gurgled below; in a pool by its side tiny paitan fishes darted in circles, now and then flashing silvery undersides. He noted the thick undergrowth around him, a disorder of giant ferns, rattans, vines, bushes, and secondary growth trees shooting pitiable poles under the umbrella of towering trees. A stunning damselfly, glossy green and tinged gold at the wingtips, hovered momentarily above the water, flicked its tail and alighted on a thick stalk weighed down by a cluster of tiny scarlet flowers that grazed the water. It folded its wings and turned into a dull immobile object."

'History' according to Hillary

From page E1

Hillary talking about how she overcame the odds to become a New York senator. By then, it becomes clear that, no matter how interesting "History" is, there are holes in it, to be filled perhaps by a future sequel by Hillary, or maybe by the forthcoming book by Bill Clinton himself.

"The most difficult decisions I have made in my life were to stay married to Bill and to run for the Senate from New York." Such threads of politics and marriage are wrapped around the staunch feminism and independence exhibited by Hillary in "Living History."

It's not quite the book you expect, for good and ill, but it remains an unexpectedly enjoyable piece of work from someone who, according to pundits, might just become America's first lady president.

In other words, Hillary's history remains to be written.

Available in hardcover in National Book Store and PowerBooks.

OLD Manila Bookstore has launched the Peso Book Foundation book "Folk Influence on Modern Philippine Art," by author Jane Stangle. Old Manila Bookstore is on the fourth floor of the SM Megamall. For book orders, call 6342436.

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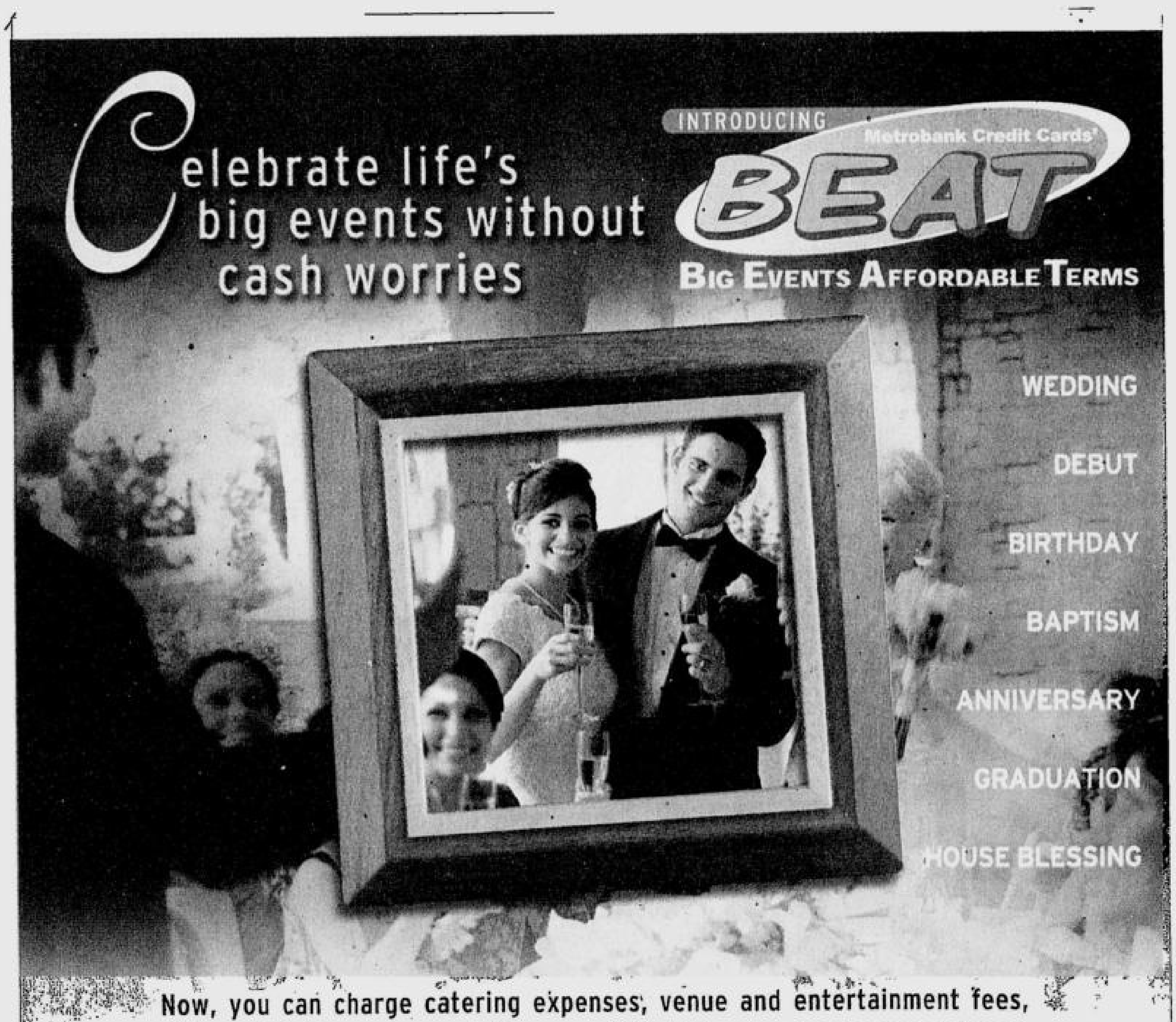

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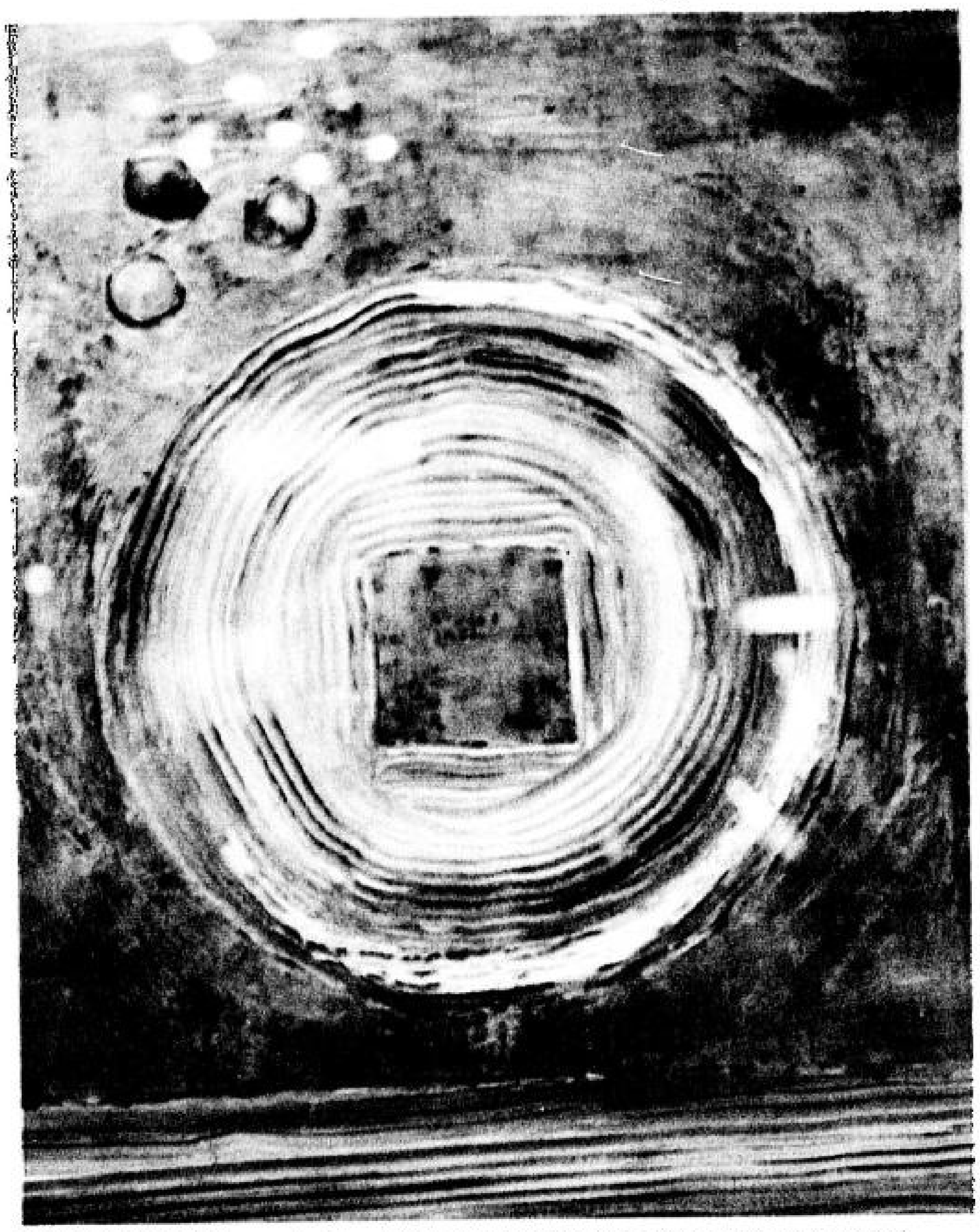
LIFESTYLE Arts Design

In a show at the Asian Elements Art Gallery, telecoms executive and painter Lizanne Uychaco shows how art is geomancy itself



THE ANCIENT Chinese coin, the artist's consistent motif, also represents the feng shui principles yin (square) and yang (round).

Feng shui and the art of the perfect space

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

"ART is the only pure space, the only perfect place. Everything is under your control... Nothing can go wrong," says Chinese-Filipino painter Lizanne Uychaco, whose latest body of work, "Auspicious Art," displays yet again her predilection for balance as the essence of life.

And that which she wears around her neck—the yin and yang in an ancient Chinese coin—is her artwork's motif all these years, the bearer of good fortune and health.

But hers is more than just art for art's sake, she says. "They're art that gives you luck, that handles the [feng shui] elements in the areas of your house. If you need water or metal, these are some elements you can put there."

The feng shui influence in her work—those recurring depictions of water, wood, fire, earth and metal—comes as no surprise. She grew up in an environment where feng shui masters were always in her family's house. The artist in her feels a kinship to luck, and the sensible businesswoman, trust in hard work.

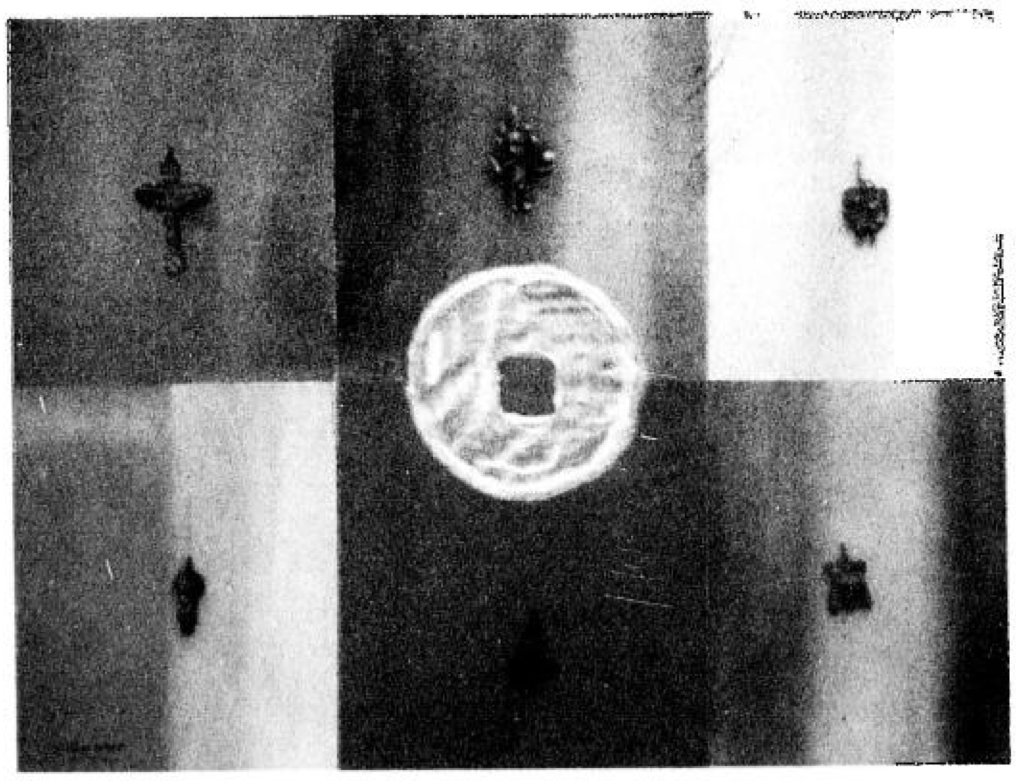
Uychaco's 15th exhibit is ongoing in Art Elements Asian Gallery at 2/L Lifestyle Area, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City, and at the gallery's new branch at Artwalk, 4/F SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibits feature over 80 oil on canvas/mixed media works, and demonstrate, too, how skillfully this busy Globe Telecom VP executive has mastered time management.

Evening painter

"I don't paint according to my mood [since] I never find myself not in the mood for anything. Every work is exciting," emphatically says this evening painter, who often loses herself in her work till the wee hours of the morning.

When she read some time ago that all the body needs to fully recharge itself is five

FENG SHUI/ F3



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Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

Caregiving and the Gift of Love
3rd of 5 parts

Taking care of ageing parents or grandparents can, at first, be a daunting task. You become their source of comfort, relief, strength and assurance. Taking that extra mile to take care of them is a gift of love – possibly the best way to show your love to them.

The following are a few more "gift" ideas that provide seniors enormous physical and emotional benefits that make "care giving" exceptionally rewarding.

A Massage Says a Lot

Ageing can cause anxiety and stress in most seniors. A healthy and caring touch like a massage effectively alleviates emotional and psychological effects of ageing that compromise the appetite and eating habits of your loved ones.

Simple, gentle strokes on the hands, feet and face can be very comforting. Ask your physician if there are any contraindications to giving Lolo or Lola a massage.

Physical Benefits
- Enhances tissue elasticity and flexibility
- Increases range of motion in joints
- Relaxes tight muscles
- Relieves muscle aches and stiffness
- Relieves cramps and muscle spasms
- Improves circulation of blood
- Improves immune system functioning
- Improves energy flow
- Improves posture
- Reduces tension headaches
- Promotes well nourished, healthy skin

Psychological Benefits
- Enhances general relaxation
- Reduces anxiety and mental stress
- Improves sleep
- Increases feelings of well-being
- Calms a bad temper
- Improves concentration
- Enhances self-image

Music, Maestro!

Music plays a significant role in improving the general well being of Papa or Mama. Set aside time for them to listen to classical music or to their favorite old classic tunes. Research results have showed that music reduces stress and anxiety, even depression. Remember that an improved emotional state can have positive effects on their attitude towards eating.

The Chef in You
- Add extracts and spices to food to make its smell and taste stronger.
- Prepare food of varying textures, colors and temperatures.
- Make sure food is rich in calories if the objective is to achieve ideal weight.
- Eat out once a week. A change in venue helps revive appetite.
- Load familiar dishes with calories by creating "concentrated" versions.

Consult a registered dietician about these alternative preparations.

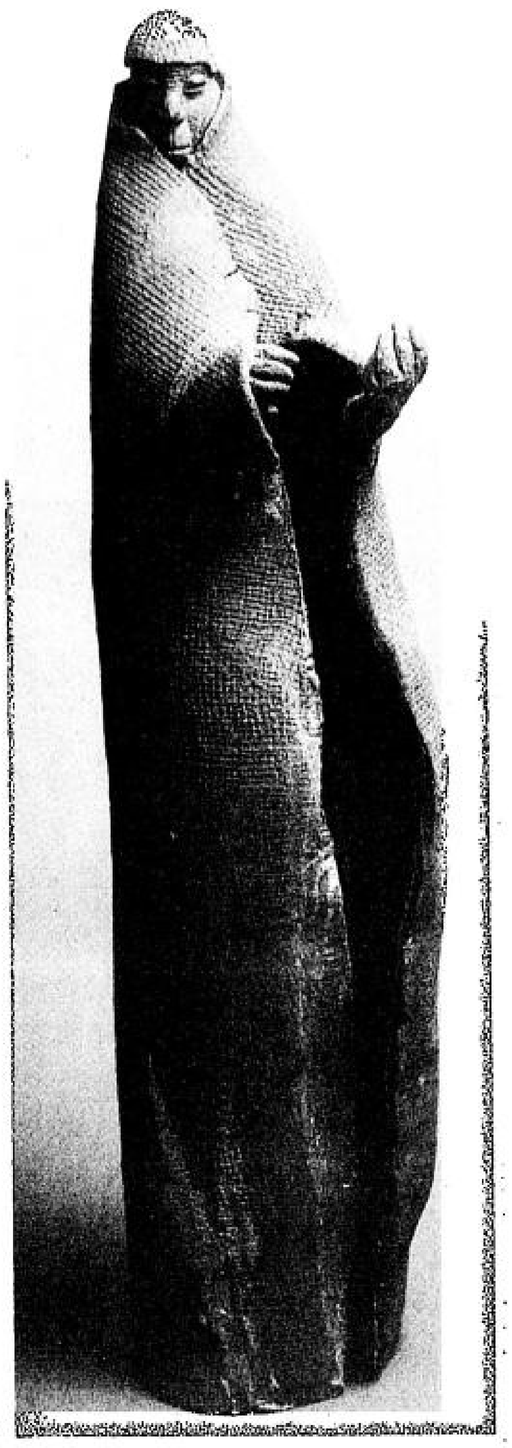
Your gift of love can mean taking that extra mile. And it's just a way of showing Lolo and Lola your love for them.

Go that extra mile and consult a doctor about Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement. And give Lolo and Lola the Gift of Love.

Putting the soul into the clay and the flames

"ETERNITY," by Wang Jianzhong

THRUST teapot by Wu Guangrong



"MAN in Terai," by Ma Jintao

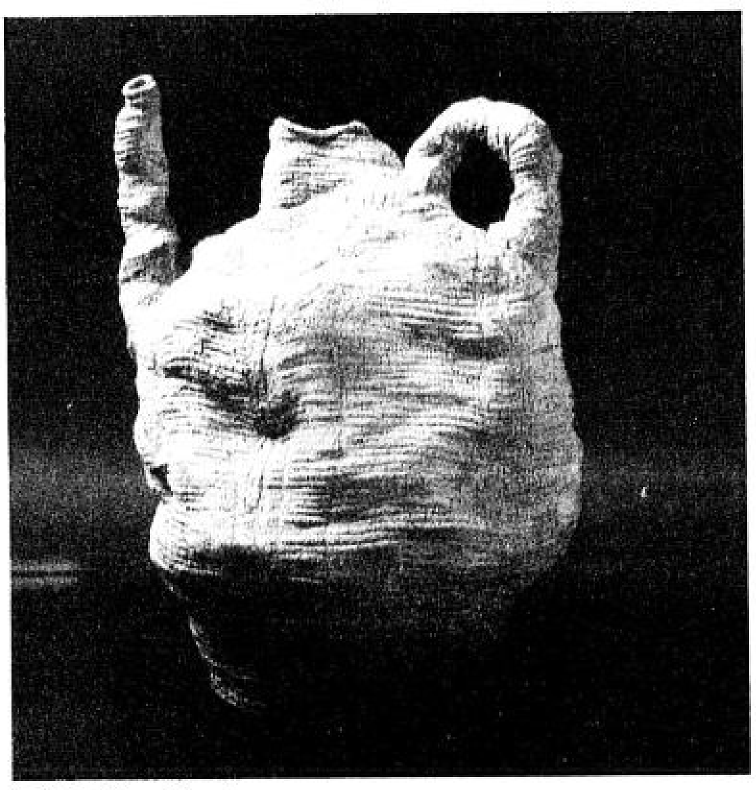
By Constantino C. Tejero

"THE CHINESE art of ceramic-making dates back to the prehistoric period. It can be said ceramics helped shape the nation," thus the catalogue introduces the extravagant exhibit "China and Clay," ongoing until Aug. 5 in Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

These are over 100 recent works by Chinese ceramic artists, presented in celebration of Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. The exhibit is divided into two sections on the museum's Upper Galleries, each section containing 52 pieces.

The first is "China Today: Modern Development of an Ancient Art." This collection has had its European tour since 1997, from Spain through the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, to Italy, France, Czech Republic, Austria and Bulgaria.

Commissioned by China's Ministry of Culture and organized by the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, the pieces were acquired from China's ceramic capitals of Jingdezhen, Yixing and Foshan. They range from terracotta to stoneware and porcelain, both glazed and unglazed.

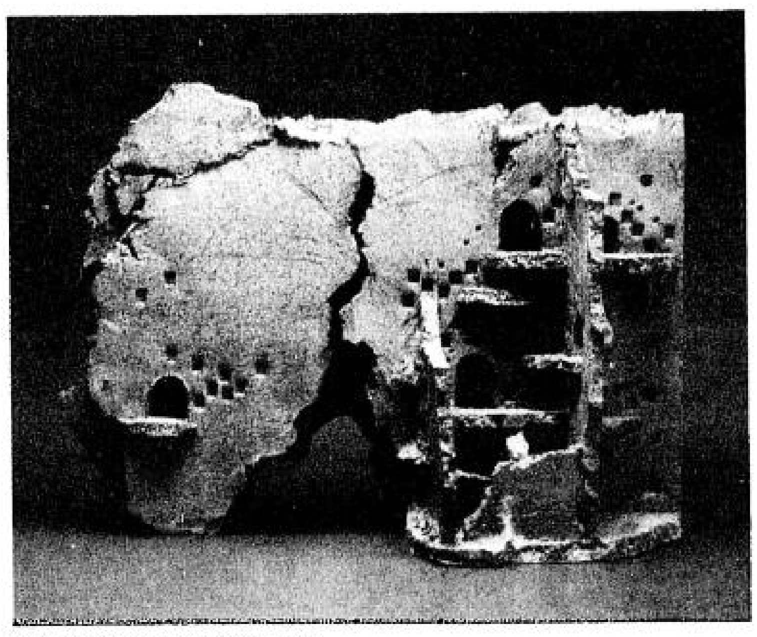


POT by Meng Qingzhu

Quite varied in tones, hues, shapes and textures, many display elegant lines, mostly classical in style but often touched up just so as to be contemporary. A fine specimen is Wu Yongping's set of six pots and bowls.

The most elegant pieces are Wu Guangrong's two thrust teapots, Liu Jianping's teaware set of five, Gao Yongjian's "Sunflower" plate, Bai Ming's "Reed in the Wind," Gao Feng's "Suzhou in the Rain" and "Snow," Wong May Lee's "Earth," Li Jianjun's "Huzi," Chen Dapeng's "Bowl of Oil Drops," Chen Jun's "Black Pottery" Series, Zhang Xiaojie's "Dream," Qin Ling's "Horse with White Spot," Lu Jinquan's "Relaxed," Lu Pinchang's "Landscape."

There are odd forms as well, irregular shapes, uneven lines, highly textured surface, such as Meng Qingzhu's pot, Sun Jiabo's "Figure," Wang Jianzhong's "Eternity," Li Zhengwen's "Mandarin Fish," Yao Yongkang's "Pollution," Chan Liping's "Untitled."



"GROTTO," by Lu Pinchang

Bizarre expressionist forms

Some mimic human forms, structures, baskets, boats, clothing, and a few even have narratives: Zhang Runsheng's "Nest for Years," Xie Yue's "Clan," Lu Pinchang's "Grotto" Series, Liu Shiming's "Boat on the Yellow River," Lan Zi's "Woman's Dress," Li Liang's "House in the North," Cao Guochang's "Oh! the Sea," Luo Xiaoping and Liu Xiulan's "Affection to South China."

A few are clusters of miniature forms: Dai Shufeng's "In the Woods," Liang Gang's "Post-Terra Cotta Soldiers," Lu Jianxing's "Colorful Clay" Series.

"DIALOGUE," by Liu Yongqiang

And there are also abstractions, such as Lee Tze-leung's "Being Alone" and Huang Huanyi's "Far Away."

The second section is "Art from a Silent World," featuring six young hearing-impaired artists. The interest of their pieces is not in elegance, subtlety and proportion, symmetry and restraint, but in their full expression, their giving vent to the spirit, a release of the soul as it were.

The artists went through a special pottery workshop in a small village between Dawenkou and Longshan, China's two most famous towns for pottery-making. These towns have a craft tradition dating back 4,000 years.

As physical impairment often intensifies the soul; this could result in expression that's extreme. Thus the bizarre expressionist forms, vivid hues and wild distortions.

You can hardly find smooth surfaces here, but almost always the pieces are rough and raw, turning the gallery into a theater of the grotesque, the lampoon and the melodramatic.

Function and importance

Among the more notable are Zhu Shiyong's "The Great Wall" and a double-layered jug; Ma Jintao's "Bathing," "Fish" and "Man in Terai"; Liu Yongqiang's "Dialogue," "Old House" and "Mountain Man"; Sun Gang's "Aspirations," "Three Lazy Monks" and "Memory of the Root"; Liu Mianli's "Cities," "Tripod Ding," an odd-shaped jug and pots; Yu Weiwei's "Skylight," "Impressions," "Harbor," and a clay basket with human-face figure.

It's as if the sound of the world, all the music and noise the artists are unable to hear, they're translating into something one can touch and see, resulting in these vivid, many-formed, very fluid, highly tactile objects.

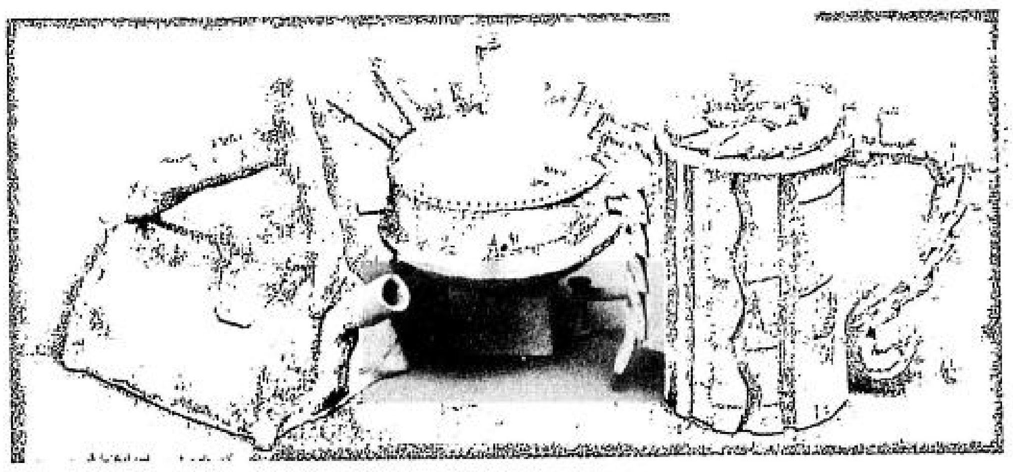
Liu Mianli quite graphically explains his creative process: "Though I cannot hear the bustling of life, I can fully enjoy the world's colors. I am often intoxicated by the smell of clay and soil. With my hands I shape my dreams on the potter's wheel, and put my soul into the clay and the flames."

Presumably, nothing has quite changed in the potter's world through the millenniums. The art may have developed, but the ceramic artist of China seems to hold the same function and importance in the community from prehistoric times to the present.

As the exhibition catalogue says: "Ceramics were instrumental in disseminating Chinese civilization. Hence, China connotes porcelain in many languages."

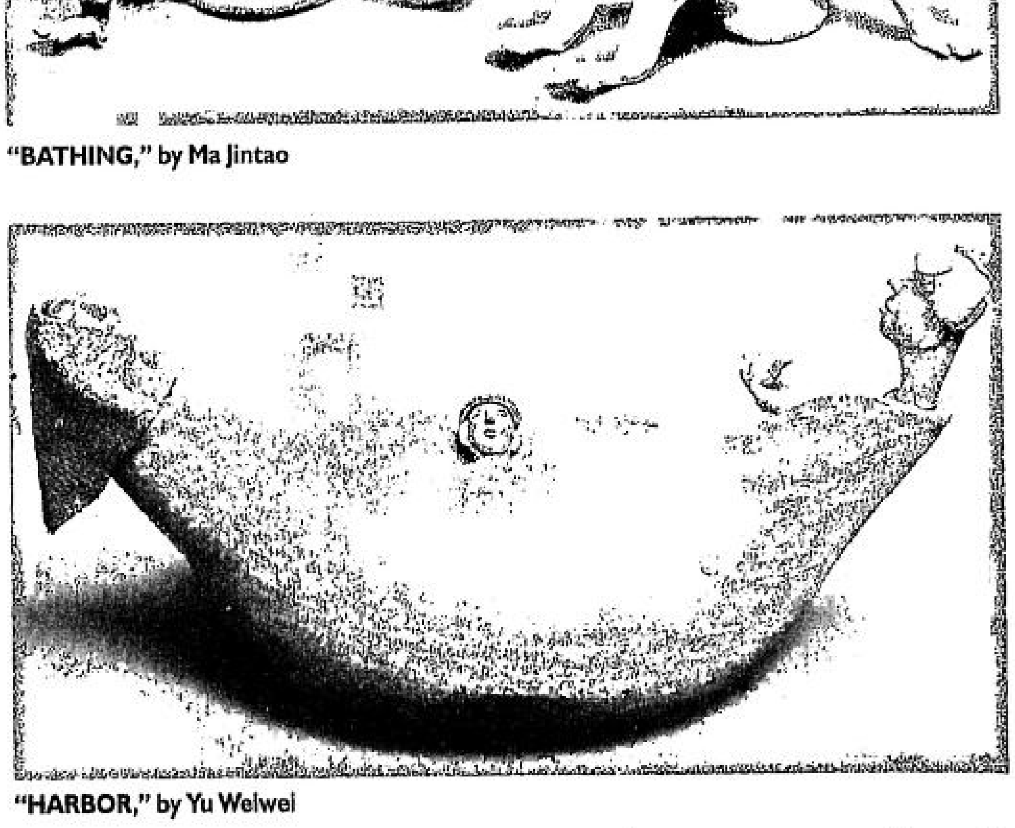
And, indeed, it does. Even if it's made in Bulgaria, a piece will still be called china.

"HUZI," by Li Jianjun



POTS by Liu Mianli

"BATHING," by Ma Jintao



"HARBOR," by Yu Weiwei

Feng shui and the art of the perfect space

From page F1

hours of sleep, Uychaco deliberately cut back on sleep to discipline herself to get just the minimum requirement. "Just think of all the things you can do [with the time]!" she says.

Her latest collection is richer in color and texture—a festive mood in some, in fact—and has more adventurous, confident strokes. "I like to learn new things and incorporate them into my work," she explains.

Folkloric influences are visible in her rendering of colorful mask paintings with earth elements like jade and soft stone. The masks are symbols similar to the ancient Chinese coin used as an amulet for protection against disease, evil or negative energy. "In ancient history, masks drove away evil and were used if [the tribes] wanted good harvest or bounty."

Heritage is important to Uychaco, and no work of hers, it seems, is there by accident. She's consciously blending culture by mixing Christian elements with animism.

Some embedded *anting-anting*, for instance, sourced from an antique shop in Quezon province or Mindanao, took painstaking study on her part to find their meaning.

She enthusiastically throws herself into research like a baby learning its first steps. From time to time, she seeks the help of her high-school buddy who now heads the UP history department.

Evolution

Deeper yet into ancient history are Uychaco's elucidation, through art, of the evolution of Chinese characters, the highly pictorial images of things they represent. She likes to go back to old things, she says, such as the simple days of pictograms, and the exquisitely sublime yet expressive art of calligraphy.

Uychaco vividly captured the pictograms' change from mere pictures that resembled objects to more abstract symbols in modern Chinese writing.

Through calligraphy, Uychaco, too, portrays a raft of water elements—rain, waterfall, river and fountain.

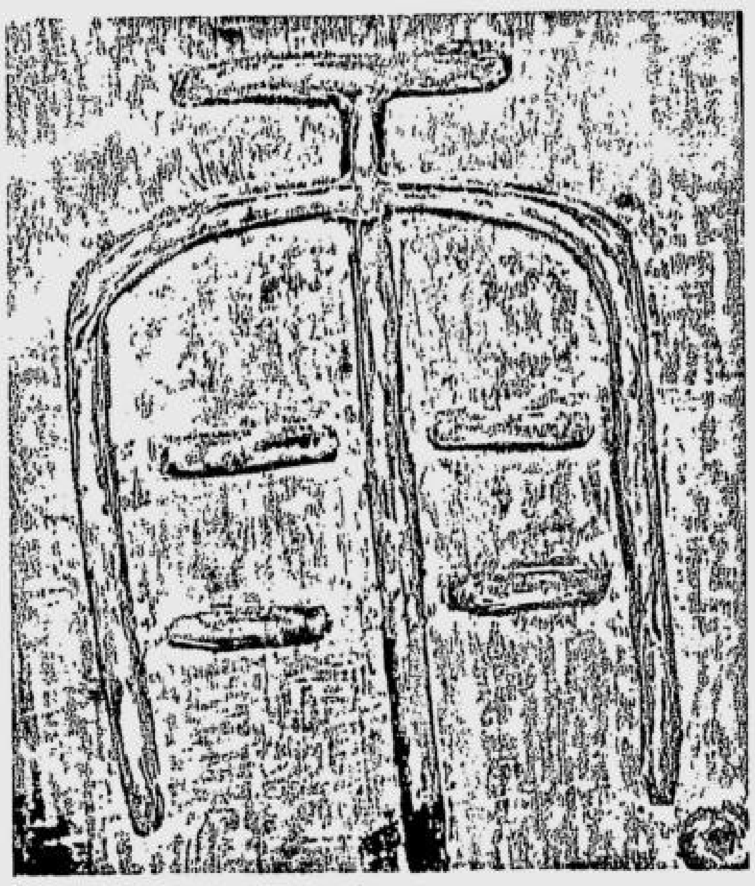
Chinese seal scripts, one sourced from a Buddhist temple, have found themselves in Uychaco's creative realm. One reads: "All good things come from the earth." Another says: "The kindhearted live a long life." Interestingly, both proverbs come in traditional and abstract interpretations.

"I followed the lines and applied colors to make it look abstract," she says.

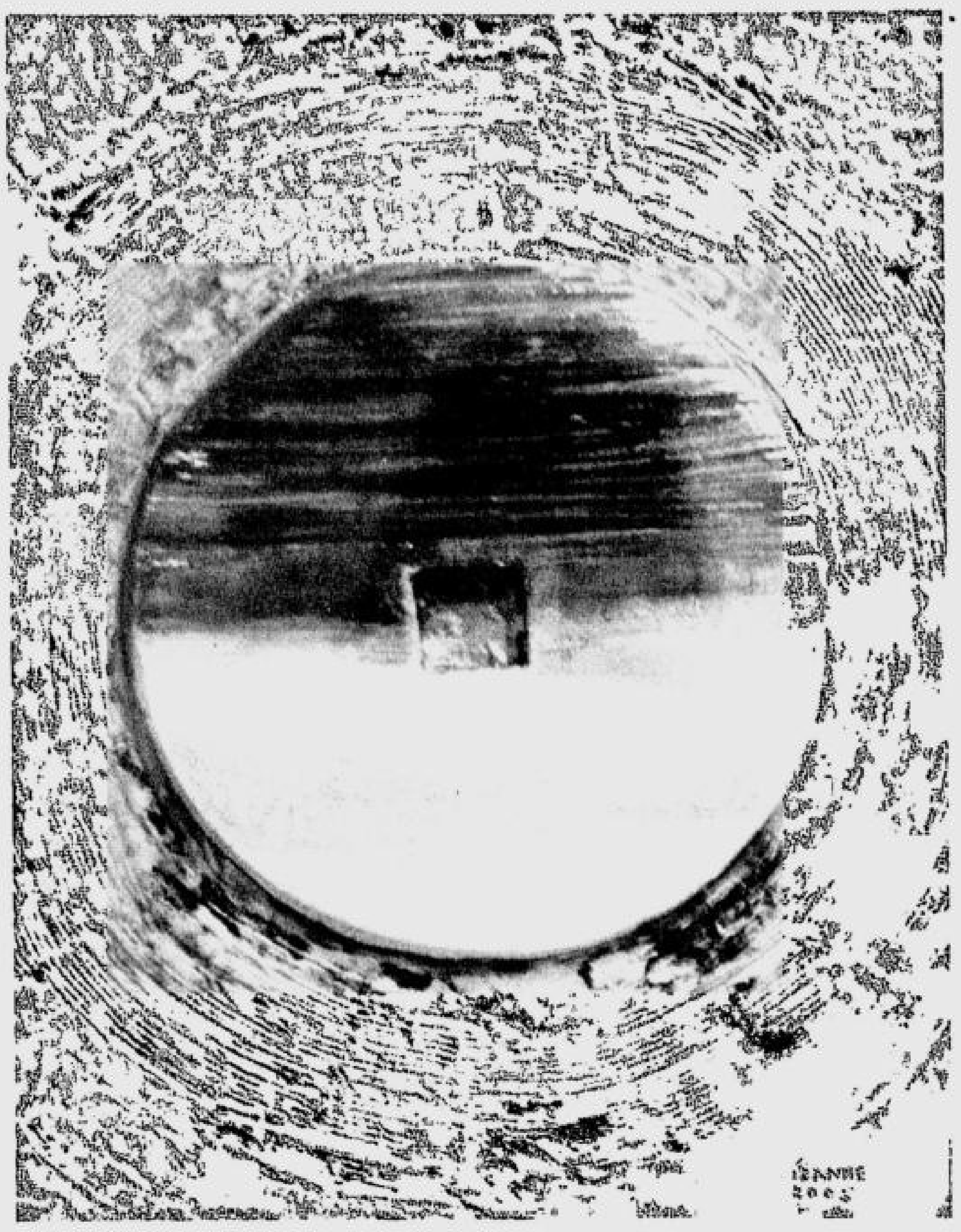
Like the fluid motions of water on a peaceful day, Uychaco seamlessly weaves feng-shui elements with amulets, charms and antiques—marrying culture and heritage, Chinese and Filipino influences.

"The best part is when I get invited to some of my buyers' homes and I see my work hanging on their walls. I feel like I'm part of their homes... It's such a warm feeling."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

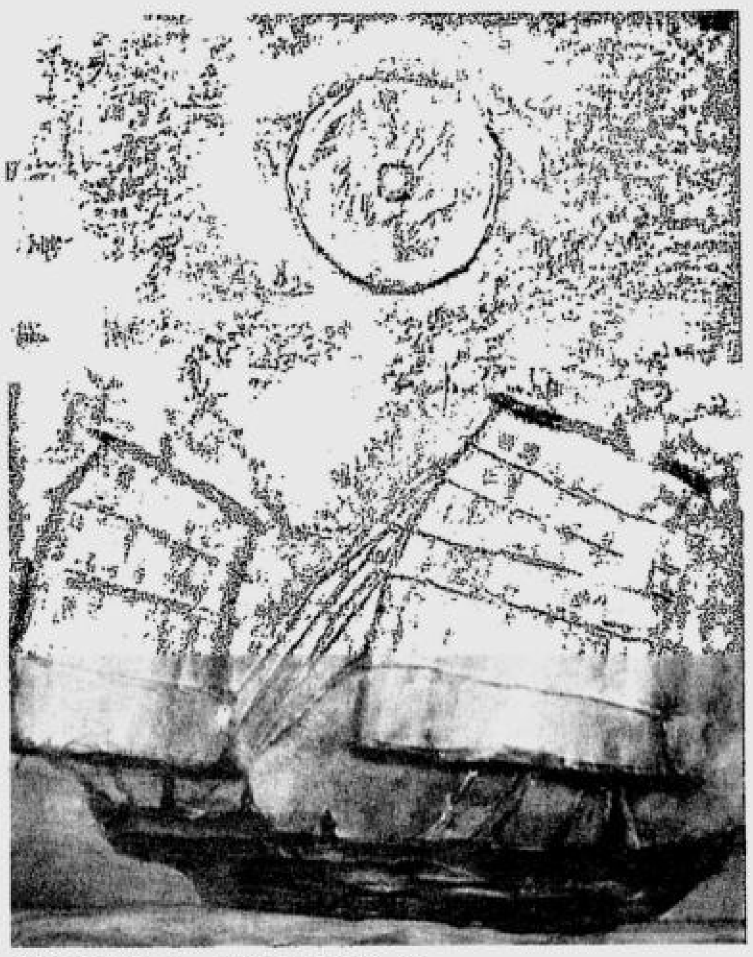


EVOLUTION of Rain Character 2

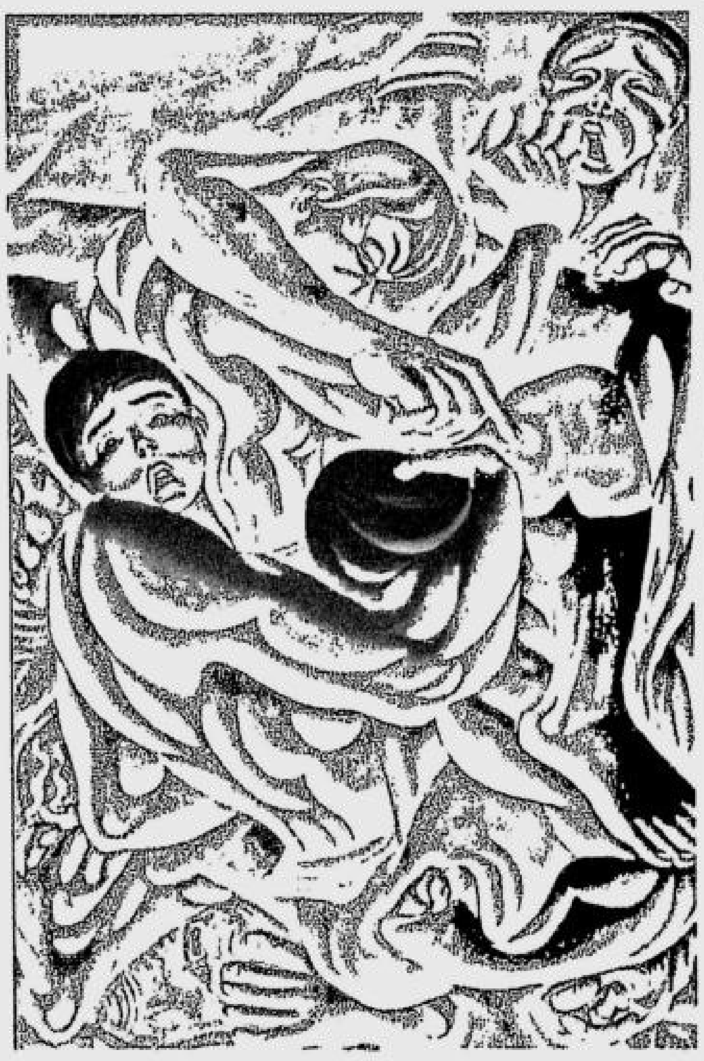


THE ARTIST grew up wearing the ancient Chinese coin for luck and health.

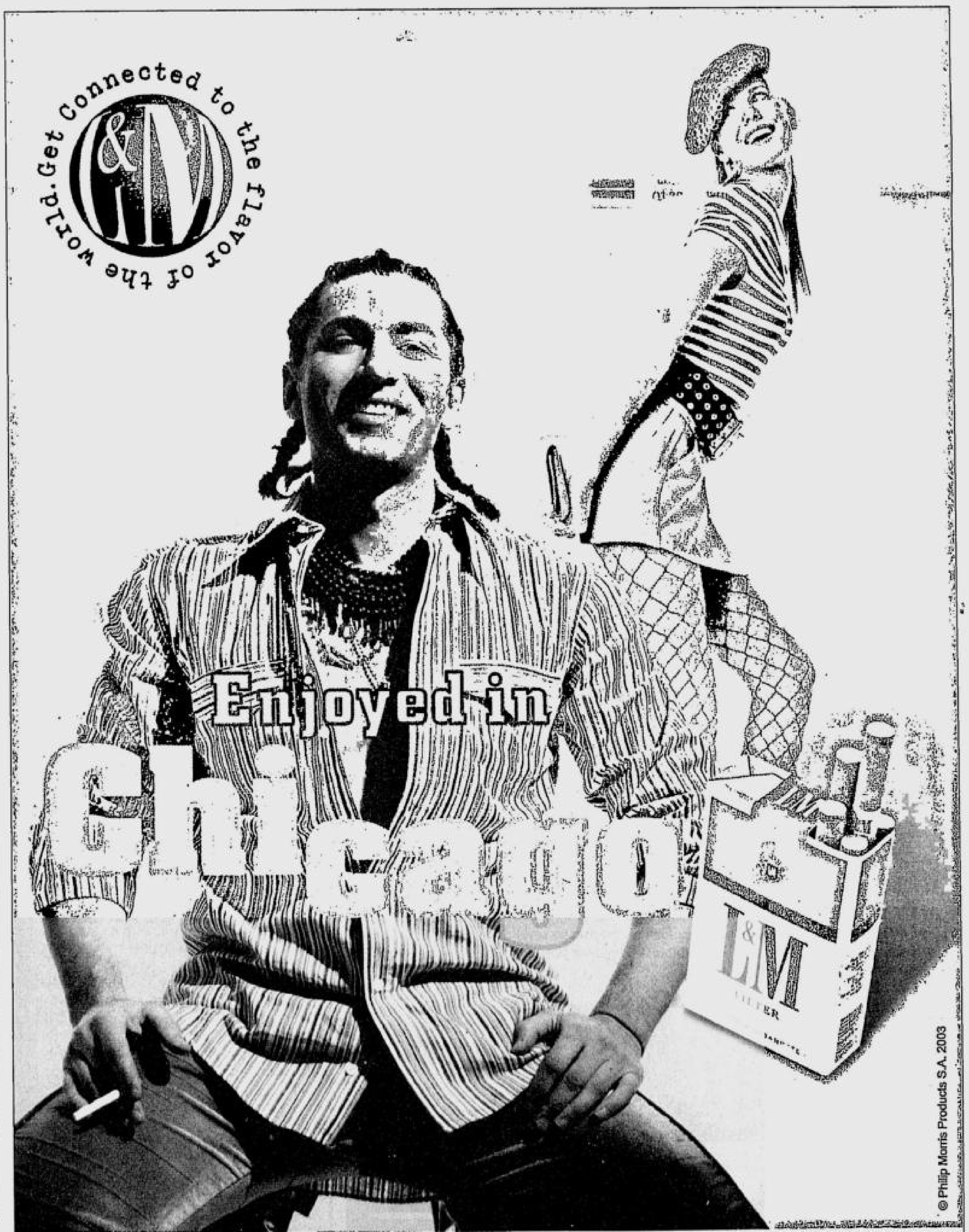
LIZANNE Uychaco



"**SMOOTH** Sailing," Buddha's Collection



HIRAYA Gallery (530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila) features the works of Gil Sakay Flores in "Solitaryo: Pusoy into Art." The Binangonan artist is noted for his stylized human forms painted in a folksy but still highly personal vein. Above is "Circle V: For Art's Sake," oil on canvas. Call 523-3331.



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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking
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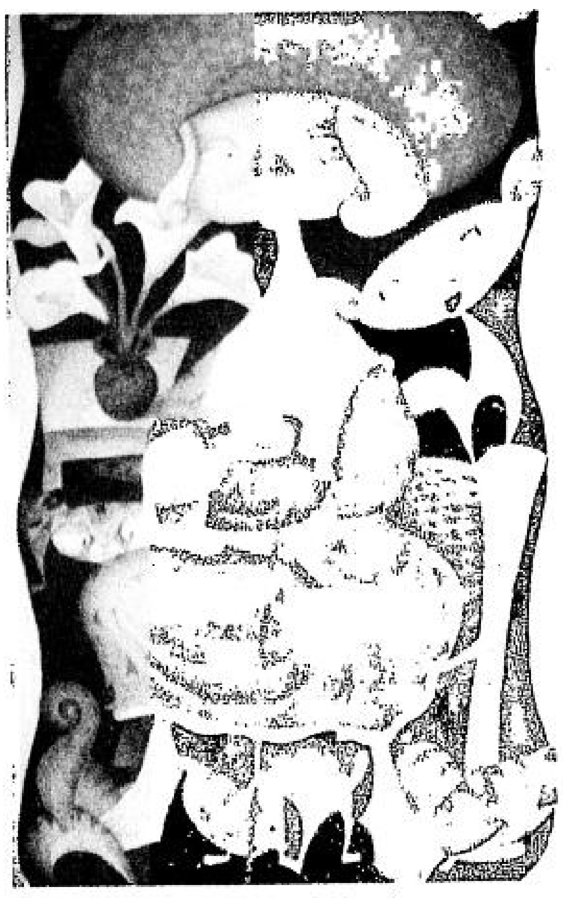
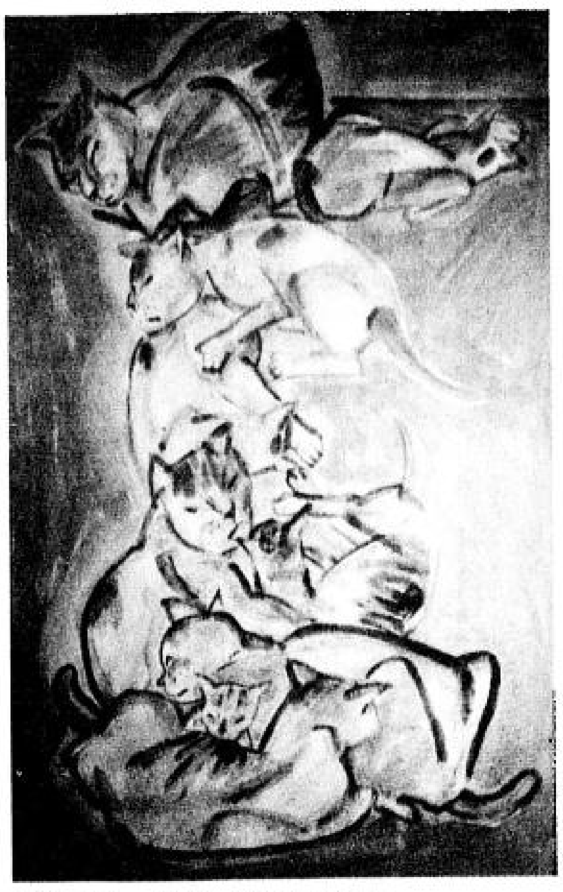
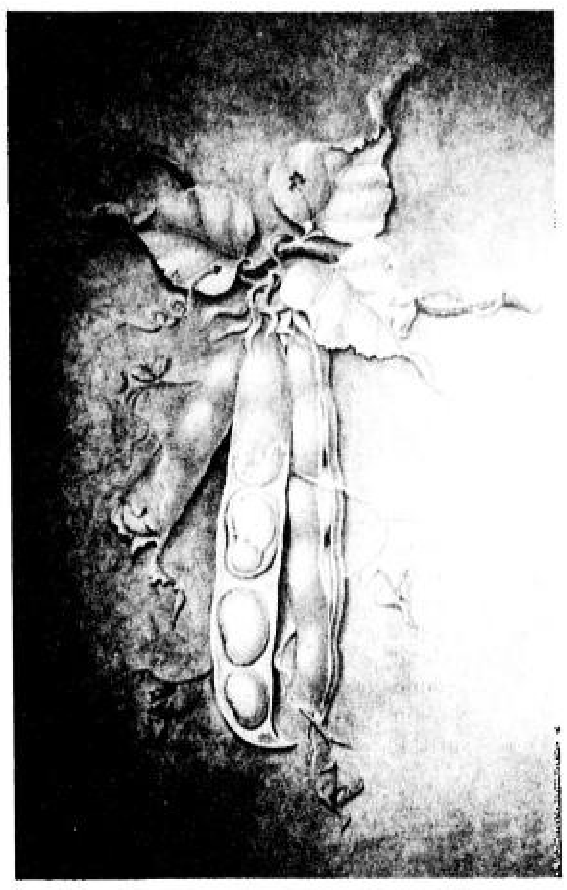
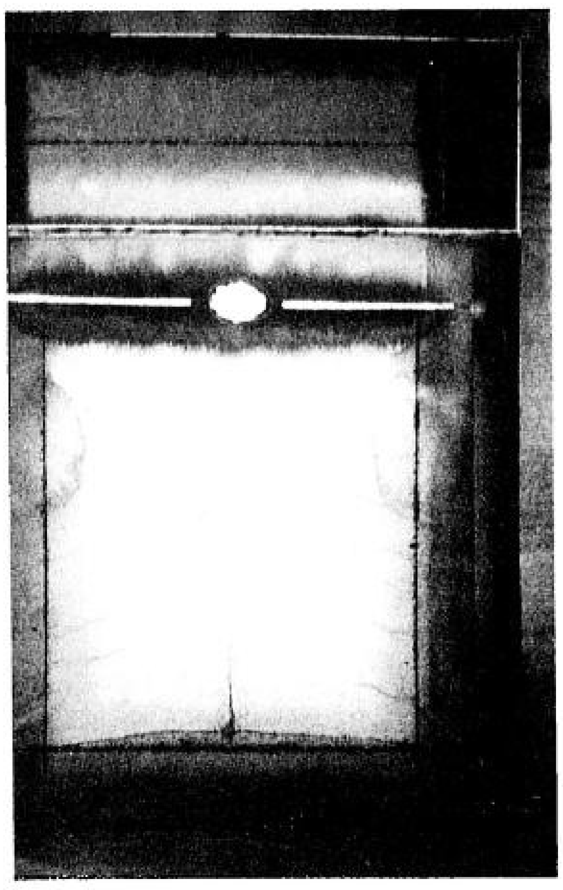

"SI LOLA at 8 Pusa," by Roel Obemio

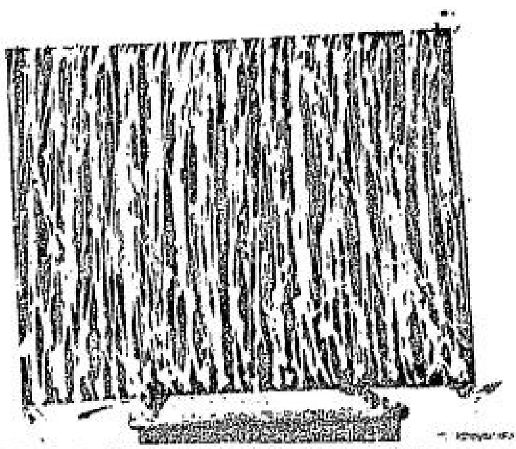

"NINE Lives #2," by Antonio Chan

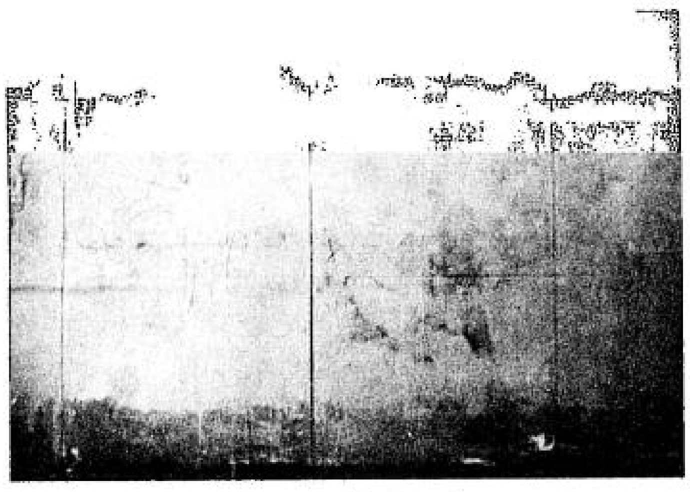

"BINHI," by Rex Tatlonghari


"RED Earth," by Fred Ramirez

Ramirez at Y, Sotto at Finale, Pacquing at West

VISUAL ARTS


"A STACCATO of rainbows," (2003) by Jacinto Sotto


"FIRST rain," (work in progress) by Pacquing

GALERIE Y exhibits Fred Ramirez's "Cosmos 2" at SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong, until Aug. 5. Ramirez won the grand prize in last year's Kulay sa Tubig competition. The show focuses on his trademark celestial, ethereal forms. He presents blurred complexions, soft images, the gold leaf, and other tranquil images to paint his vision

FINALE Art Gallery presents Jacinto Sotto's abstract paintings on July 29-Aug. 10. Sotto continues his exploration in color in his poetic abstracts. He combines intuition, improvisation, control and aesthetic judgment. Finale is located at Sunvar Plaza, Pasay Road, Makati and The Artwalk, Level 4, SM Megamall A, Edsa. Call 6342411.

BERNARDO Pacquing presents "Damp Mortar" in West Gallery at Glorietta 4 on July 31-Aug. 12. The show touches on the oft-ignored walls and structures reminiscent of the MRT underpass along Edsa. The walls and structures become natural canvases into which Pacquing explores creative possibilities. Call 752-7028.

The Crucible (4L SM Megamall) is showing the works of finger-painter Amelou Junio. The works were done without the benefit of brushes. Junio uses her fingertips to paint landscapes. A businesswoman, the artist said she "paints from the heart." "Each painting has a story to tell," she added. Show runs until Aug. 10. Call 635-6061.

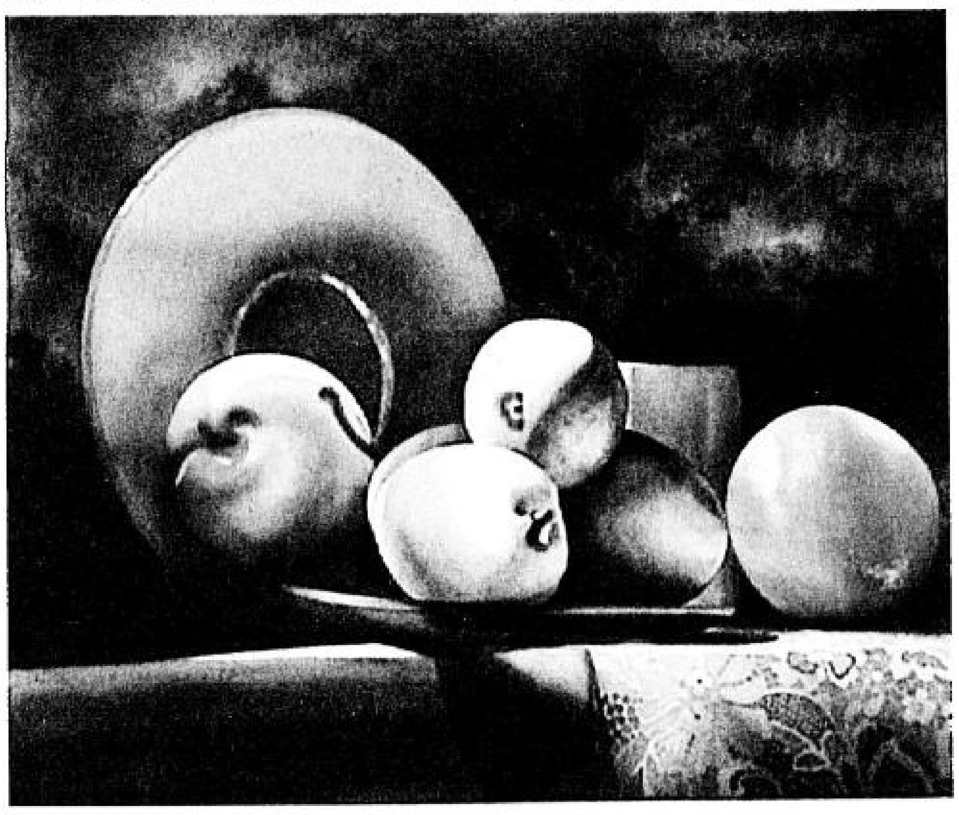
"SKY, sea & sand," Amelou Juinio

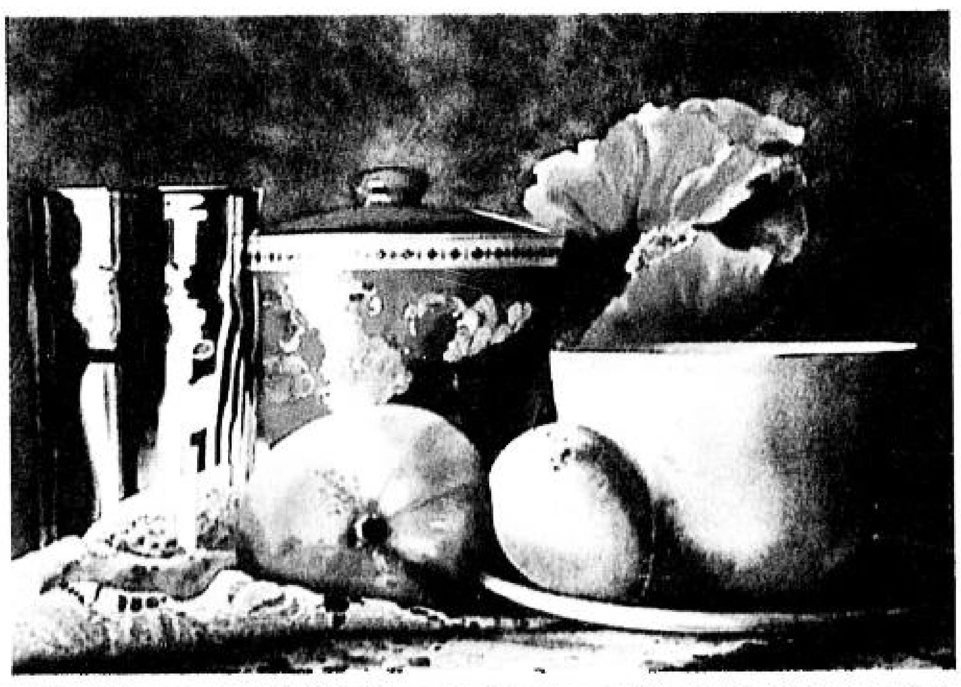
THE ART Discovery and Learning Foundation, Inc. holds its group art exhibition until Aug. 8 at SSS Gallery, 2nd Floor, SSS Bldg., East Avenue, QC. Some of the participating artists are Marie Aganon, Isabelita Aganon, Oprah Abrigo, Cynthia Medrana, Stephanie Baluyot, Nicolette Bambao, Salvador Bernardo, Serena Borras, Lorenza Capotura, Avigail Caranto, Marcial Carneo, Ruzanne Caro, Domingo Felix Cesario.

GENLUNA Gallery features Herald Corpus' "Rustic Scenes Black and White" until Aug. 9. The gallery is located at 12 General Luna St., Davao City.

GALLERY Genesis presents the 2003 Annual Invitational Watercolor Competition and Exhibition titled "Kulay sa Tubig." In conjunction with this, the Hall of Fame artists are on view at Gallery Genesis, 4th Level, SM Megamall A, on Aug. 8-20.

AYALA Museum's Escuela sa Museo holds art workshops like Play Art for Toddlers until Aug. 16, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Art Around the World, Aug. 23-Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Animé, July 26-Aug. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Beginner's Watercolor, July 26-Sept. 13, 2-5 p.m. Call 810-8407.


WATERCOLORIST Alfred Galura mounts a solo show of recent works titled "Batanes and Memories," featuring a series of panoramic landscape renditions. Also to be shown are still lifes and street scenes. The exhibit will open on July 31 at Gallery Nine (4L SM Megamall). Call 687-7302.



Philippine High School for the Arts offers scholarships

THE PHILIPPINE High School for the Arts (PHSA), through its Annual Nationwide Search for Young Art Scholars (Ansyas) program, is now accepting applications for full secondary education scholarship for SY 2004-2005.

The yearly search aims to ensure a continuing source of artists of excellence and leaders in the promotion and preservation of Filipino art and culture.

PHSA screens Grade VI and VII pupils from both private and public elementary schools and accepts a limited number of students in Dance (Ballet and Folk), Music (Voice and Instrument), Theater Arts, Creative Writing, and Visual Arts.

Scholars are awarded free tuition, free board and lodging, a monthly stipend, and the privilege to represent the country and the school in local and international art festivals, camps, competitions, and youth-exchange programs with partner countries.

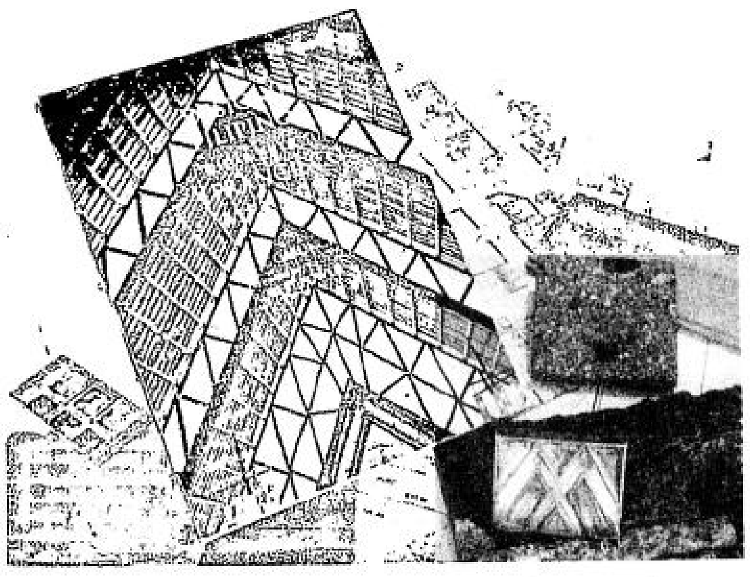
The grant is renewable every year for four consecutive school years upon completion of academic and satisfaction of non-academic requirements.

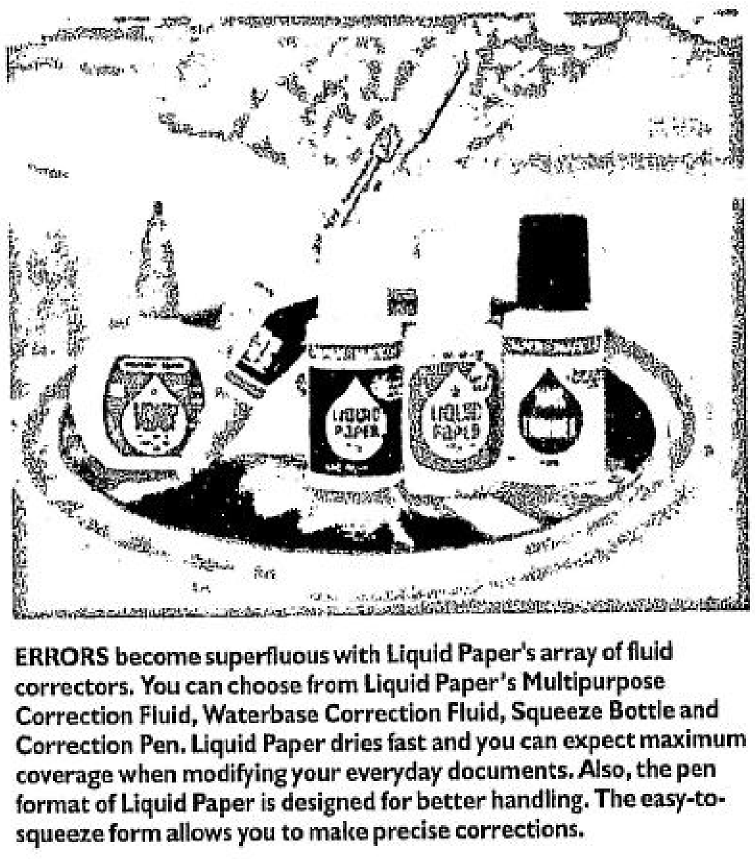
Application forms are available free of charge from any of the following sources: The Department of Education division fffices; the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila; the Dramatic Arts ,Music, Visual Arts, Literary, and Dance Divisions, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Pasay City; the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (Namcya) office, Folk Arts Theater, Pasay City; PHSA-Manila office, Folk Arts Theater, Pasay City; and PHSA, National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling, Los Baños Laguna.

The deadline for submission of applications are: Aug. 13 for Luzon; Aug. 29 for Visayas; Sept. 2 for Mindanao.

All fully accomplished scholarship application forms and other pertinent documents must be sent directly to Dean Honrado R. Fernandez, Director IV c/o Ansyas 2004, Philippine High School for the Arts, National Arts, Mt Makiling, Los Baños Laguna .

For inquiries, contact (049) 5365972 and (049) 5362862 and look for Reynaldo O. Wong. Or contact the PHSA-NCR office at (02) 832-1120 loc. 112 and look for Lea Aliangan.


ARCHITECT Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa offers a journey to the past and present of Philippine architecture in "Designing Filipino: The Architecture of Francisco Mañosa," which will be launched on Aug. 5 at the Manila Polo Club. In the book, the famous architect shares his thoughts on contemporary Filipino architecture. The book is available at National Book Store and Powerbooks.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Atypical artists point to brave new world

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

FIVE new artists have been chosen to exhibit in a show at the Philippine Center in New York next month. They represent the brave new world of contemporary Philippine art.

The artists represent a wide spectrum of genres and demonstrate a crossbreeding of styles, materials and processes. They are fiercely independent, remarkably flexible and articulate.

They have reinvented themselves in the course of their dogged preoccupation with art-making. Two are, in fact, graduates of occupational and physical therapy, another is a practicing doctor of dental medicine, and still another a holder of a degree in financial management. Only one has formally taken up fine arts in college.

Business of art

Addie Cukingnan is a businesswoman; she is in fact at the helm of the famous Kitaro chain of restaurants.

Cukingnan first painted in her spare time while attending to her food business and fulfilling her usual duties as wife and mother. She first exhibited her works—consisting of still lifes, landscapes and portraits—in group exhibits only in 1998.

When she was elected president of Arte Pintura, a group composed mainly of self-taught artists (including her daughter Tisha, an architecture student), she devoted more time to art. She organized group shows and took part in in sketching sessions.

Cukingnan has successfully mounted two solo shows. Her flower paintings have a formal quality that rises from the merely botanical, revealing her feeling for color and composition. The ubiquitous flowers, from velvet lilacs to white lilies, are shown in their total splendor, their leaves robust in yellow-green hues. They are captured in their natural form in well-tended gardens, plucked to adorn table settings, or in the company of everyday fruits, jars and vases.

Cukingnan's landscapes complement the lush presence of tropical vegetation. In the seascapes, she expands her turf, portrayed, for example, by a solitary tree that precariously thrives on the promontory of a cliff.

On occasion, Cukingnan paints scenes from her foreign sojourns, recalling the details of snow-capped mountains, majestic pine trees dotting a stream, and flowers that grow in wild profusion.

For all their seething religious ardor, these works—ranging from oil on canvas to those painted on wrought iron plates—truly ennoble the spirit and exalt the soul.

Precocious

The other female artist in the group is Sandra Fabie-Gfeller, who grew up in an art-friendly environment. In her youth, she precociously watched and observed her father paint. She later took up drawing and painting by copying photographs from books and magazines. Later, she began exploring watercolor, acrylic and oil. She trained under Onib Olmedo and artist-friends on weekends, and learned portraiture and figure painting.

In 1994 and 1997, she attended the classes of Bob Gebrarcht, a teacher of portrait and figure painting, in San Francisco, California.

A financial management graduate from St. Scholastica's College, Gfeller has worked as a business development manager and manager of Soleil Restaurant, in which she did the marketing for the restaurant's art exhibits. She's now an investor relations expert.

She has exhibited in a number of group shows (the "Alay" shows at Boston Gallery), and has even done commissioned works. Her oeuvre navigates realism (portraitures) and abstractions (the artist's more uncompromising works), in a variety of media.

In her more recent landscapes, she merges realism and minimalism, with daubs of surrealism. Her palette sense is austere, though configured in bold and bright colors, and her subjects are often captured in casual, unguarded moments.

Her abstract works have of late taken a more audacious and dynamic turn, perhaps ushering in a new, exciting phase in Sandra Gfeller's evolution.

Brooding

A physical therapist by training (he has a diploma from the University of the East), Azor Pascoquin was exposed to art by virtue of his family's thriving framing and art business, which he helps manage.

He prefers painting traditional genres, such as pastoral scenes in the tradition of Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos V. Francisco and Diosdado Lorenzo and the latter-day lakeshore artists.

He also enlisted as a member of Arte Pintura and trained under the wings of painter-mentor Araceli Dans, who became his patient in therapy.

Quiet and intensely brooding, the artist has joined group shows, mainly with Arte Pintura and the apprentices of Dans.

In all these shows, Pascoquin paints sundry subjects in his favored medium of oil on canvas, mostly of the ordinary folk such as farmers, fishermen and workers as they go about their workaday lives.

With his gallery of fully delineated characters, he has honed his touch for juxtaposing the rural folk and the world they inhabit, totally detached from cramped, oppressive city dwellings.

Abstract wonder

Doltz (for Jose) Pilar plays his multifaceted roles depending on the client's need for his services. He has multiple careers as visual merchandiser, floral stylist, landscape and interior designer and, of late, painter.

He has worked along strictly abstract modes, eschewing representational art, basking in the sheer joy of pure physical painting.

Pilar works in both oil and acrylic, often combining them on canvas. His canvases are almost devoid of figures, save for the accidental forms that may emerge along the way. The pieces convey diverse mental and emotional states.

His works capture a melange of colors, which are of the most atypical kind—black gray and mocca red. He has a contemplative sense of composition.

Calligraphic touches

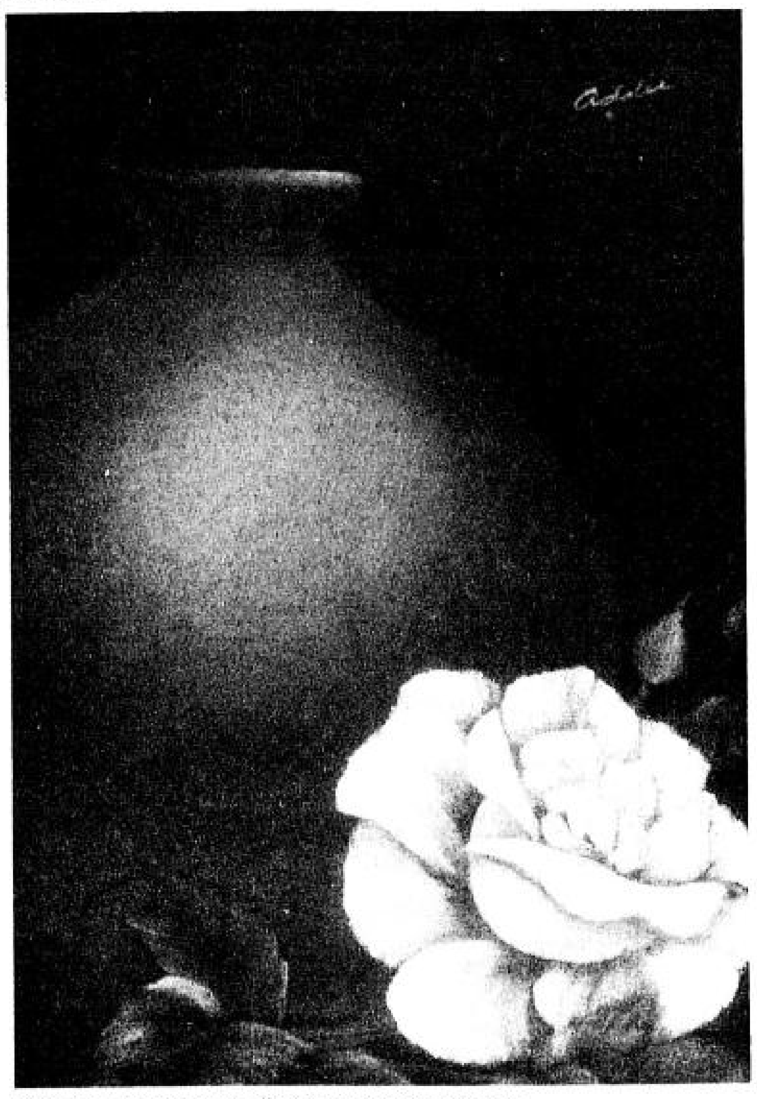
A dental medicine graduate from the University of the East, Wally Sy began painting merely as a hobby, and recalls attending a Chinese painting workshop while he was in his teens.

After only recently beginning to raise a family, his interest in art has been rekindled. He has done commissions and experimented with new techniques.

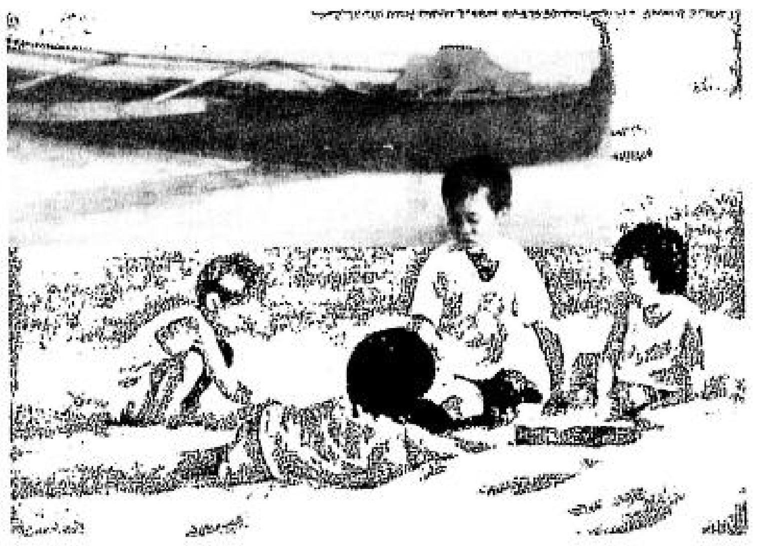
Though mainly self-taught, Sy has developed a style that has endeared him to his clientele. His works are mostly in the abstract mode, his subjects predominantly of celestial bodies and nature's imaginary light-and-shadow shows, and his choice of colors bold, vigorous and, radiating life's vital energy.

Oriental calligraphic touches are evident in his works. He displays a great deal of wit and spontaneity, occasionally incorporating found objects on the canvas. There is, obviously, a childlike quality to Sy's bold experimentation with color, which shows his wonder at nature. Experimentation is an endearing aspect of his evolving fascination with art.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

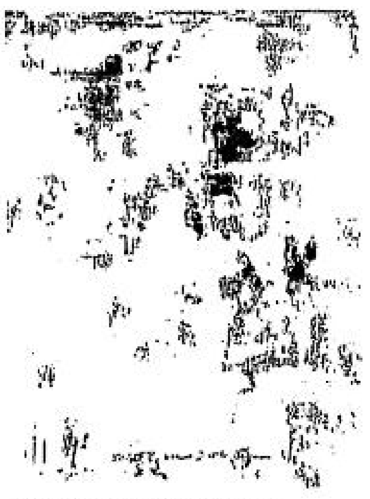


"BLUSHING Blossom # I," by Addie Cukingnan

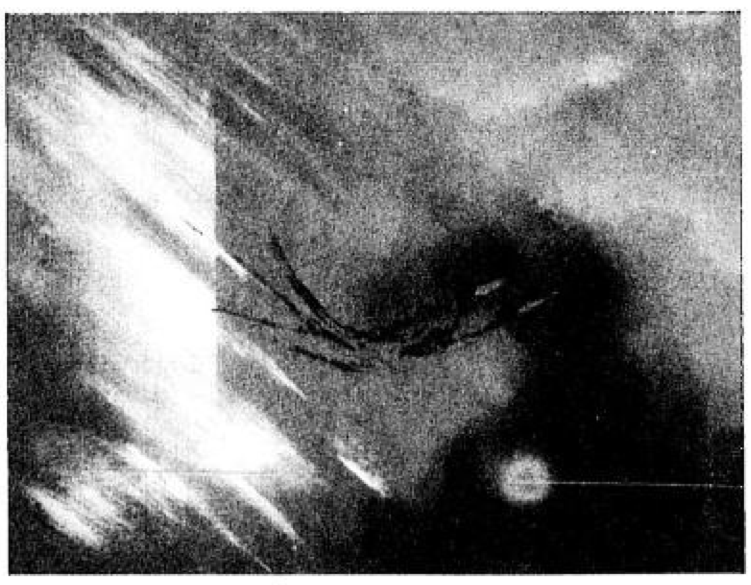


"MASDAN Mo Ang Nakaraan (Look Back)," by Aroz Pazcoguin

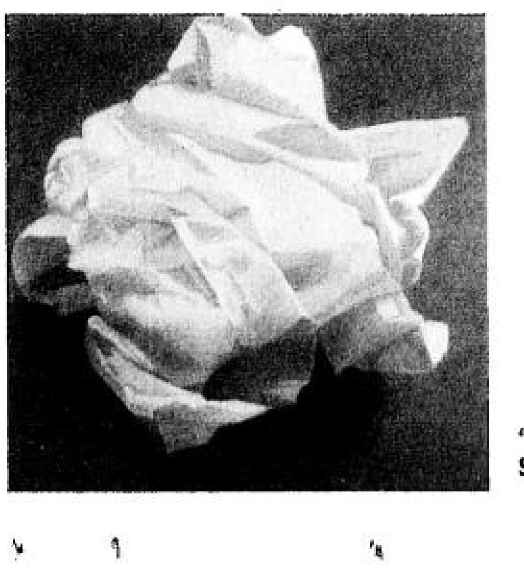
Five new painters exhibiting in New York demonstrate a crossbreeding of styles, materials and processes



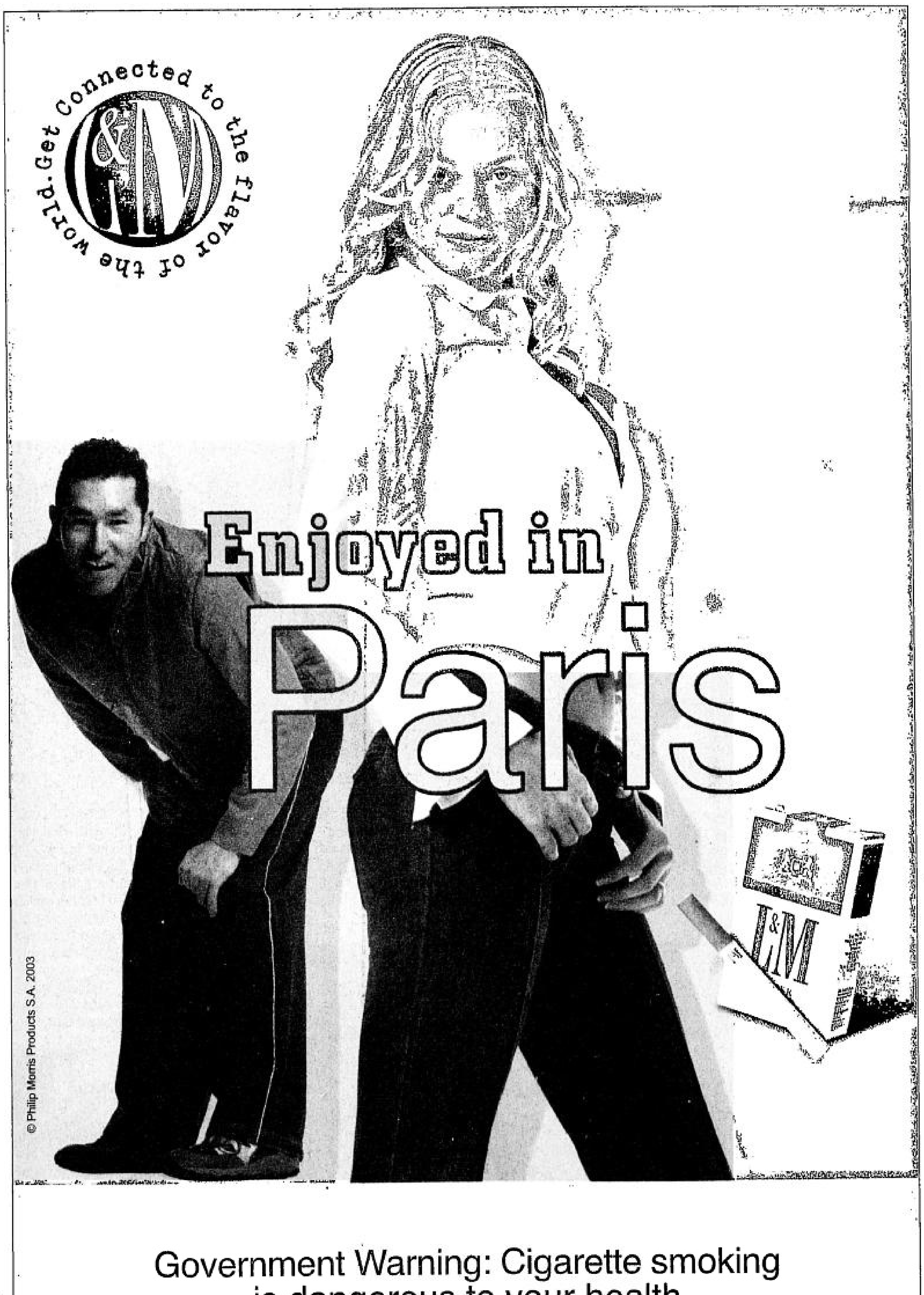
"MY FAVOURITE Wall," by Doltz Pilar



"SHADOW in the Sky," by Wally Sy



"CRUMPLE-I," by Sandra Gfeller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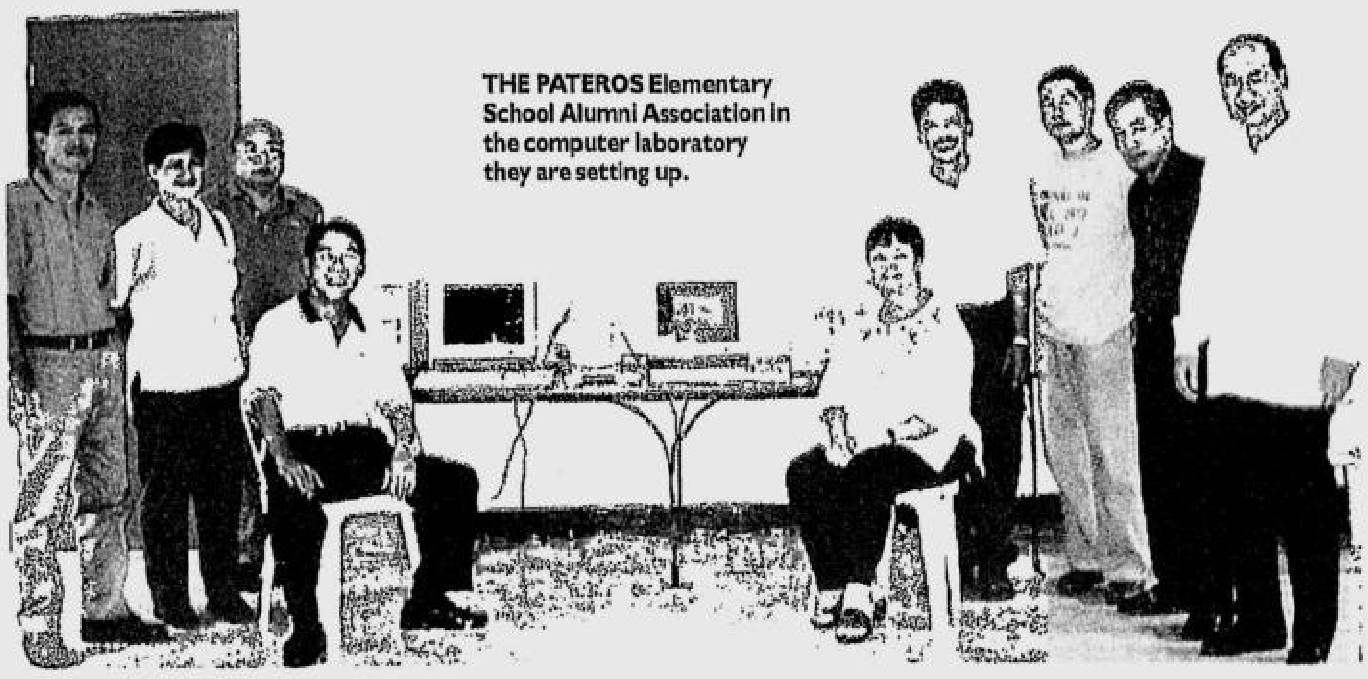
EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Alumni adopt Pateros Elementary School

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

Businessman Andy Concio and his buddies are helping their old school put up an information technology program. National Artist Jose analyzes the national malaise



THE PATEROS Elementary School Alumni Association in the computer laboratory they are setting up.

YOU could say that Andy Concio is a retired *balut* vendor, if you apply the term very loosely.

Andy Concio hails from Pateros, the *balut* capital of the world. His *balut* business distributes literally thousands of this unique Filipino delicacy to various outlets throughout the country.

Andy finished grade school at Pateros Elementary School in the '50s. He and his grade school chums are now successes in their chosen fields. They attribute this good fortune in a large part to the educational foundation they got from Pateros Elementary School.

As a way of thanking the school that helped make them what they are today, Andy and his buddies formed an alumni association. It came as no surprise that they all agreed to give something back to Pateros Elementary School.

Andy got in touch with this writer at the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's offices to seek help in planning out how to implement an Information Technology program for Pateros Elementary School.

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil Jose

Even before making contact however, the Pateros Elementary School Alumni Association had already secured a donation of an entire two-storey building from the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, one of Pateros' most distinguished native sons.

Next, they began converting the ground floor into a computer laboratory. The hardworking alumni solicited 14 used computers from the Pateros community. Andy himself sponsored the construction of the computer desks.

Finally, they linked up with Zenaida Santos, the DepEd supervisor for Pateros, which was no problem at all as Ms. Santos is a Pateros Elementary School alumna herself.

Now they had a happy problem. They had the facilities, but they had no idea how to implement an IT curriculum that conforms to DepEd standards.

Mrs. Feliza Binuya, the new school principal had been at her post for barely a month, so she was still adjusting to the new environment.

The solution came from no less than DepEd Technical Services Director Orly Oxales, who arranged for us to see Director Teresa Inciong of the Bureau of Elementary Education.

Director Inciong showed us a computer education curriculum for grade school that the alumni could implement for Pateros Elementary School. "Our teachers know what to do. Just help them along", Dir. Inciong told us.

In the meantime, Andy and his grade school buddies are deep into preparations for the formal launching of their adoption program in the coming months.

Good luck, Andy!

F. Sionil Jose's words of wisdom

"We are such an assertive and innovative people, why then are we poor?

"We were the most outstanding nation in Asia—next to Japan—in the '50s and '60s, why were we left behind?

"We have such excellent executives, technical people working abroad, why then is our country such a mess?

"The answers to these questions are all interrelated. To answer them, I must go to the very beginning, to the rearing of our young, to grade school," said Philippine literary icon F. Sionil Jose.

Speaking before the Foundation for the Upgrading of Standards in Education (FUSE), Jose commented that the status of teachers has truly gone down "compared to what it was when I was in grade school in the thirties. Then, the teacher, like the policeman, was regarded with respect, so much so that the spouse—even if he or she was not a teacher—was also called *maestra* or *maestro*. How do we put the teacher back on that pedestal?

"Early in life, children [should be] told stories that are specially primed for them, to give them not just a sense of right and wrong, but also to develop in them pride of the nation.

"The Swiss have that famous story of William Tell and how he risked his son's life by aiming an arrow at an apple [on the boy's] head. The Dutch have that story of the boy who thrust his hand in a hole in the dike to prevent a flood. The Americans tell their kids about how Washington cut the cherry tree and did not lie about it. What similar stories will we tell our children?" Jose asked.

He had a number of suggestions to upgrade our educational system, especially in grade school. Among them:

- The singing of the National Anthem should be followed by a recitation of Mabini's Decalogue, in the language of the region.
- History should be a consistent element in the classes, for instance in reading, literature and geography.
- Each town or even barrio should have libraries or facilities that would bring books to our very poor.
- Each town must have a written history and the teachers must draw from this material.
- Multiply the [Education Revolution] effort started sometime back by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

F. Sionil Jose is a batch mate (at UST) and very good friend of FWWPP chair and Education Revolutionary Eggie Apostol.

CLOCKWISE, from top: Andy Concio of the Pateros Elementary School Alumni Association; Feliza Binuya, Pateros Elementary School principal; and Zenaida Santos, DepEd Pateros District Supervisor

During the open forum after his talk, Dr. Eden Kelemen, the head of the School Empowerment Program Development committee took the opportunity to give more details about the Education Revolution to the FUSE assembly. Dr. Eden kelemen is also the vice chancellor of the Philippine Women's University."

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power

They came for cartoons

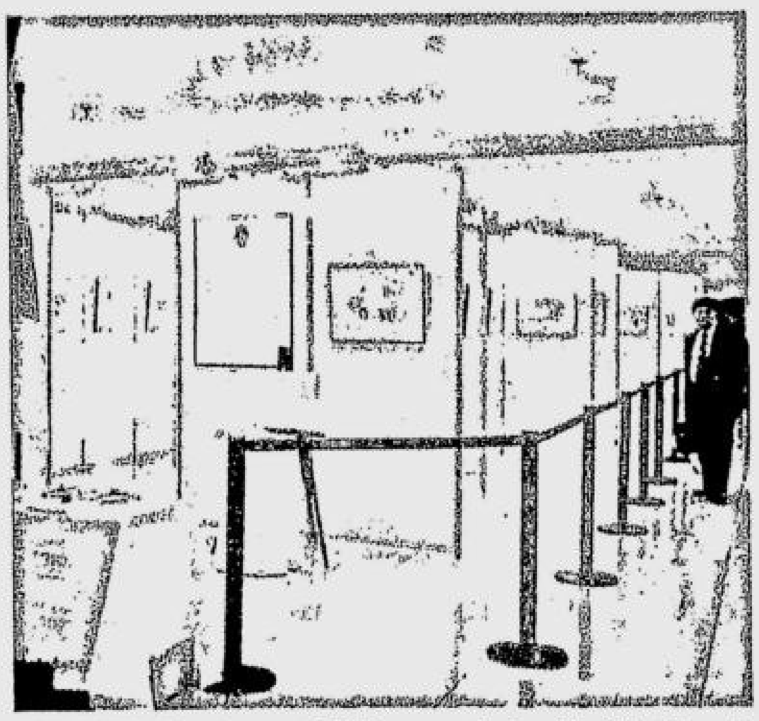
AVID cartoon fans flocked to the Shangri-La Plaza Mall for the opening of the Japan Foundation Manila Office's 6th Asian Cartoon Exhibition.

Minister Akio Egawa of the Japanese Embassy, Shangri-La Plaza general manager Lala Fojas, new Japan Foundation director Naoaki Uchiyama and Samahang ng Mga Kartonista ng Pilipinas vice-president Rene A. Aranda formally opened the exhibit. The cartoon exhibition entitled "Images of My Neighbor" featured 100 cartoon works by 10 veteran cartoonists representing China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

Guests noted were Dougall Aucsin of the Canadian Embassy, Lee Yong-Soo of the Korean Embassy, National Artist F. Sionil Jose and his wife Tessie, Dr. Jesus Peralta and his wife Dean Charito Bitanga, artist Manny Baldemor, Ann Marichris Tan of Getz Bros. Philippines, and cartoonist Tonton Young.

LALA Fojas, Akio Egawa, Rene Aranda and Naoaki Uchiyama

F. Sionil Jose and his wife Tessie



THE SIXTH Asian Cartoon Exhibit area at the Level 4 of The Shangri-La Mall

TONTON Young, Rene A. Aranda and Hiroaki Uesugi

RICHMOND Cheng and Ann Marichris Tan

THE Saturday Group at the launching of Galleria Botin

PHOTOS: ROGER CARPIO

Botin is artist group's new home

THE SATURDAY Group of Artists has tied up with Galleria Botin, the restaurant-art center in Eastwood City, Quezon City. It is now holding "Art and Food," an exhibit and art session, at the house famous of its Spanish Mediterranean food.

"Dining at the Botin will be a merger of common interests, of food and art in one place," said Antonio Gregorio, director of Botin.

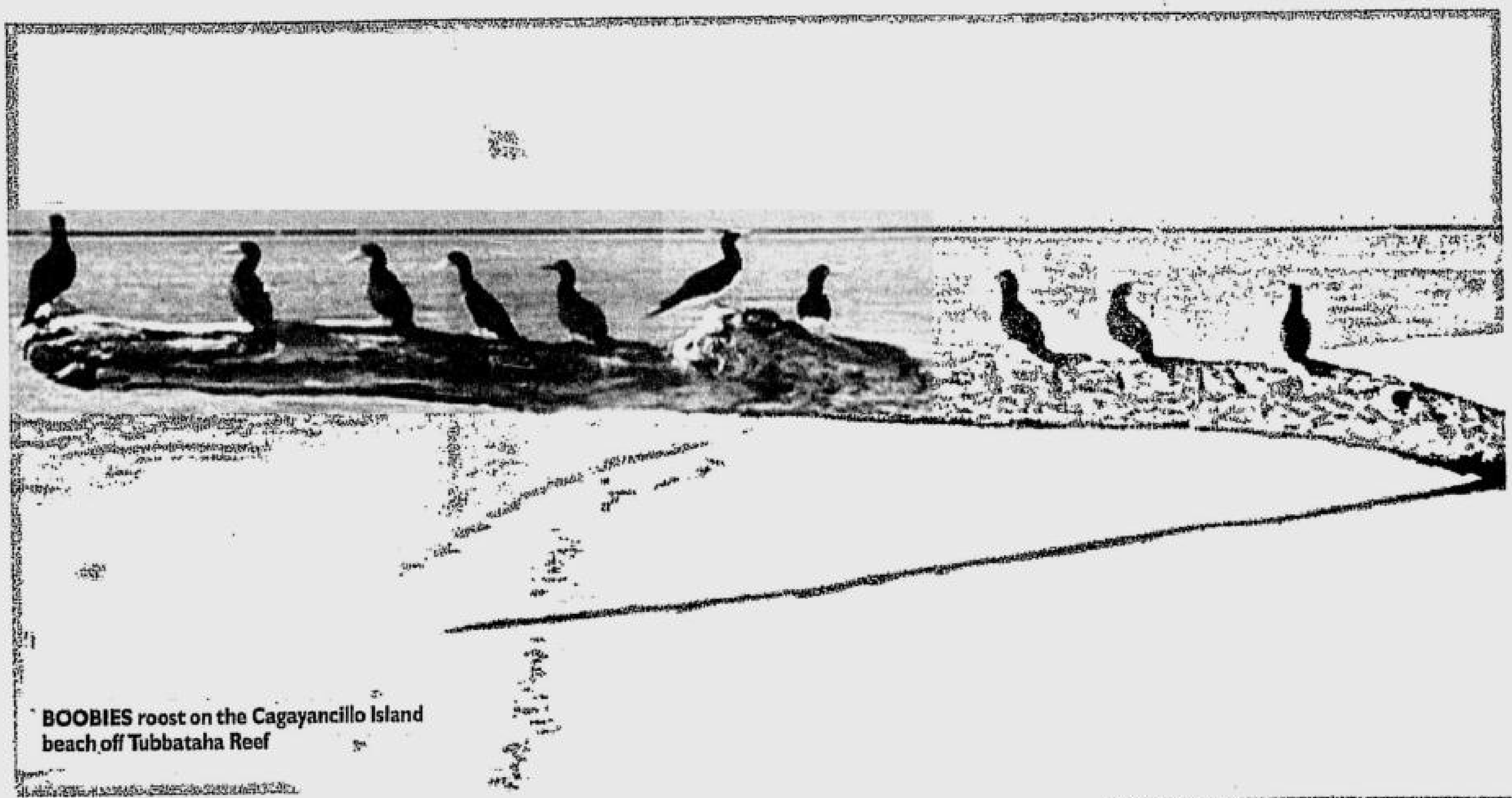
The cafe gallery, according to King Verano, president of the art group, is expected to recreate the atmosphere of the Taza de Oro on Roxas Boulevard, which was a famous haunt for artists, collectors, gallery owners, writers, academicians and other bohemians. It was the Saturday Group's home from 1968 to 1985.

The group will hold a regular exhibit focusing on one artist backed up by the works of young member-artists. Some 20 works will be on exhibit at a time.

Mauro Malang Santos, Saturday Group's chairman emeritus, is the first featured artist.

"Take one of the paintings as dessert," quipped Verano.

(L-R CLOCKWISE): Nola Cadayona (manager, Botin), Tony Vasquez (artist, Saturday Group), Atty. Gregorio III (corporate member), Venus Ligue (corporate member), speaker Frank Verano (president of Saturday group)



BOOBIES roost on the Cagayancillo Island beach off Tubbataha Reef

Aloha, Tubbataha?

Because the Philippines does not seem to have the political will to preserve the nation's natural patrimony, the Tubbataha Reef may not survive beyond this generation

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

TUBBATAHA Reef was the first natural site from the Philippines to be inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage List in 1993.

The listing was appropriate for an archipelago like the Philippines where the sea is a life-giving force, the center of people's lives.

The Unesco World Heritage Committee recognized Tubbataha as one of the most outstanding coral reefs, not only in the region but in the world.

The Committee went on to say that in the 33,200 hectares of the marine park is a unique example of an atoll reef with a very high density of marine species.

Tubbataha Reef was declared a National Park and a Marine Sanctuary in 1988. It is isolated. It lies in the middle of the Sulu Sea, 150 km off or a 12-hour boat ride from Puerto Princesa City. It is closest to remote Cagayancillo Island.

The site is an excellent example of a pristine coral reef with a spectacular 100-meter perpendicular wall. Aside from that, it has extensive lagoons and two coral islands. The North Reef is a nesting site for birds and marine turtles.

The Reef harbors a diversity of marine life that is equal to or greater than any other such area in the world.

No wonder it is a much desired diving location. Its inaccessibility protects it from tourism pressure. But it is beginning to feel the heat as tourists have increased.

Turbulent history

Tubbataha has had a turbulent history. It has suffered from overfishing. Seaweed farming in one of the islets has taken advantage of the sheltered reefs.

But nature has its own precaution against overfishing. Severe monsoon rains prevent any fishing activity for nine months of the year, giving the marine life and the reef time to regenerate.

But the reef is not anymore fully protected by the cycle of nature. After the 1980's, for example, the reef experienced severe destruction from dynamite fishing, and sections were annihilated by muro-ami fishing.

In 1989 a study showed that the coral in the outer reefs had decreased by at least 25%.

Most fish and invertebrate larvae that originate in Tubbataha Reef are believed to migrate with the prevailing currents to the easter side of Palawan Island and to the entire Sulu Sea. They eventually provide the fish catch that sustains the life of the people.

Although it was a nationally protected area, Tubbataha practically became open seas. Philippine and foreign fishermen fished in Tubbataha with absolutely no regard for the severe impact of their methods on the marine life.

The Environmental Legal Assistance Center of Puerto Princesa reported recently that in 2002, 38 Chinese poachers were arrested about 33 nautical miles off El Nido. They were aboard two fishing boats equipped with fish-finding equipment. Fish seized from them were found with traces of cyanide.

Worsening

Four criminal cases were filed against the poachers. Last June, a plea bargain from the accused was rejected by the Provincial Prosecutor of Palawan and the trial opened.

Now it appears the case is set to be thrown out. It looks like the Chinese poachers will walk away free, following the fashion of the 122 Chinese poachers who were first detained, but subsequently released last year. What kind of signal does this send about the Philippines' resolve to protect its marine resources?

Controlled fishing and well-managed tourism bring economic benefits not only to Tubbataha Reef but to the entire Palawan. It seems that control and management are loosely implemented.

When the site was inscribed by Unesco, it was felt by the World Heritage Committee that management was lax, so there was encouragement from the Committee for "the Philippine authorities [to] provide funds for the management of the site."

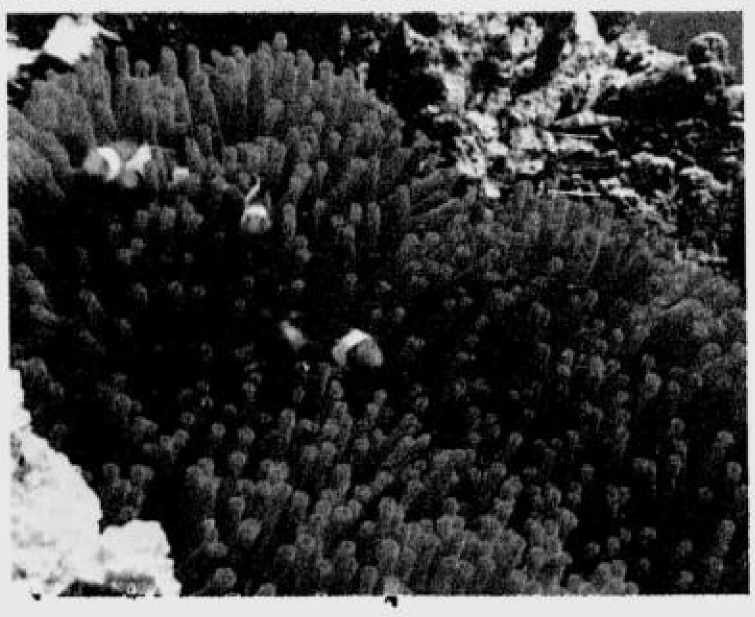
The international community is concerned about Tubbataha. Coral reef areas are important in sustaining the economic, marine and ecological balance of the Philippines. The global ecological system is linked in a very complex manner. Each of these links must be maintained to keep the entire system going. Tubbataha is part of that system.

Considering that 75% or more of the coral reefs in the Philippines are in varying stages of decline, why can't we get together and protect one of the best examples of a coral atoll in the world?

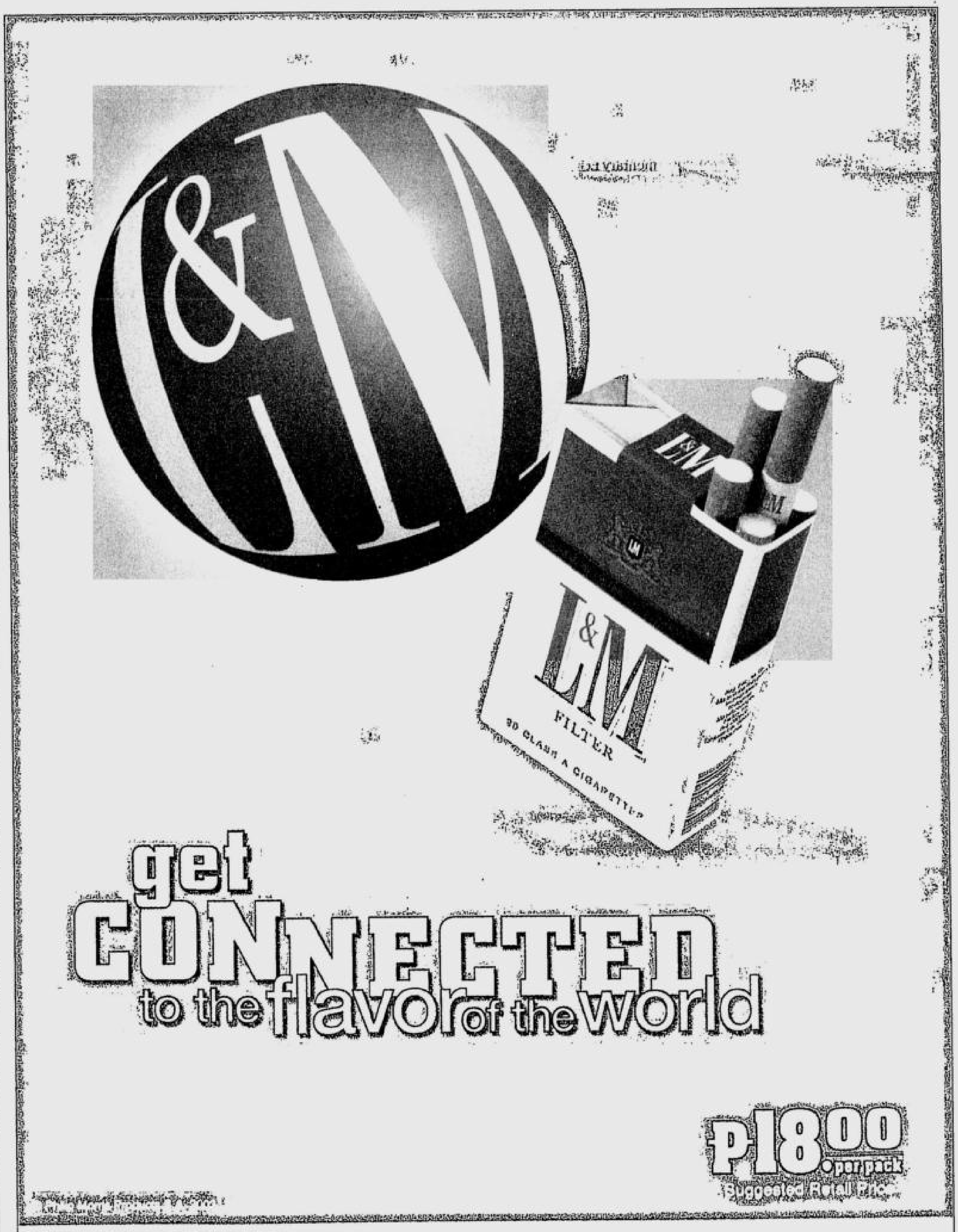
The Philippine nation and the entire world benefit from the conservation of its environment. Therefore it is crucial to sustain Tubbataha Reef in its pristine state. Environmental conservation needs more effort and more political will.

Email your comments and feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

TUBBATAHA has been inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage List in recognition of its outstanding underwater [illegible]



TUBBATAHA teems with marine life that needs much greater protection.



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Travel book presents fresh and unusual look at Asia

TED Lerner, the author of the hilarious Philippine adventure and travel book "Hey Joe," has come up with a new book called "The Traveler and the Gate Checkers."

In his second book, Lerner takes to the road in the gate-checker capital of the world, Asia.

Part travelogue, part reportage, part outrageously good fun, this collection of five original travel tales presents a fresh and unusual look at the world's largest and most populated continent.

India's sweltering mass and its ancient monuments to love, sex and death combine to reveal some hard-won lessons in life.

A trip to Japan leads to a bizarre journey inside the wildly popular and often depraved world of Japanese professional wrestling.

In high-class Hong Kong, one of the city's most notorious landmarks provides the base for some low-down diversion.

A sojourn to Thailand and to the practically untouched country of Laos opens the doors to the Southeast Asia of old. And, finally, a trip back to the teeming and seedy heart of Manila on a taxi ride yields a date with Ole Blue Eyes himself.

Available at all National Bookstore branches or through www.hey-joe.net

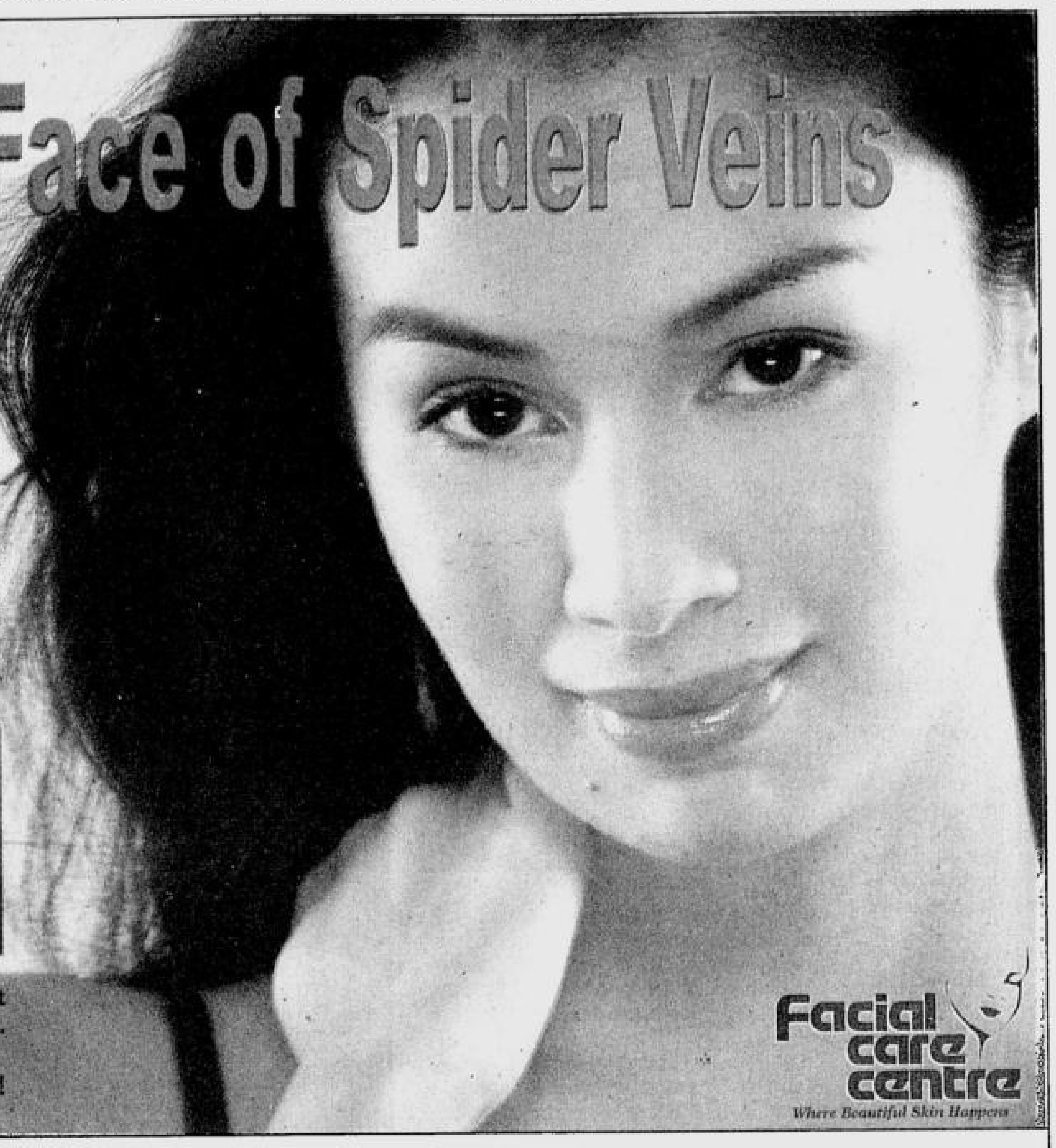
Sigma Delta Phi honors select members

THE UP Sigma Delta Phi Alumnae Association (SDPAA) recently honored its two past presidents for services rendered to the organization and five sister-achievers for their outstanding contributions in their respective professions.

The recipients are Dr. Isabel Echanisn-Melgar for her works on HIV/AIDS prevention and cancer therapy, "Sens Optomur" and "The Patients" Forum"; Pacita "Chit" Juan for her coffee business entrepreneurship and social advocacy campaign, "Save the Barako" Philippine coffee; Dr. Priscilla Chinte-Sanchez for her internationally recognized works in microbiology such as "nata de coco," the Philippine Centennial wine and her 2002 National Achievement Awards in Biological Sciences; SDPAA president Linda C. Gamboa of the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines; Gladys San Juan-Tiongco, incumbent director of the Federation Soroptimist International of the Americas; the PNP Women's Desk, for its work with abused women; Ma. Cristina Valera-Turalba, for her philantropic work; and Myrna Dizon-Borja, for raising P1 for the association.

Other recipients included multi-awarded broadcast journalist Ces Oreña-Drilon for her promotion of small- and medium-scale business entrepreneurship, and well-known artist and international Peace Awardee Celia Diaz-Laurel, as the 1st president of the Wednesday Club, forerunner of the SDPAA.

The sorority, founded in 1933, is now celebrating its 70th anniversary. It will have its grand reunion and 5th Mariang Maya Awards ceremonies in December.



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